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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN ALBERTA, 1900-1918

by

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A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EDMONTON, ALBERTA
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled "THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS IN ALBERTA, 1900-1918" submitted by CECIL R. BLACKBURN in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

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Date February 4, 1974.

# ABSTRACT

The object of this study was to trace and analyze the development of sports in the Alberta area from 1900 to 1918 and in this way to increase the body of knowledge pertaining to Canada's sporting heritage. Newspapers, selected from the major geographical regions, were the principal sources of information to this end. It was established that growth and expansion in sport kept pace with the far-reaching changes which were manifest in the social, economic, and political climate of this era. Major forces affecting the evolvement of sports included the amateur-professional ethic; the churches; the educational institutions; the various ethnic groups; the Y.M.C.A.s; local, provincial, and dominion holidays; technological changes; increased participation by women; and World War I. Between 1900 and 1914 involvement in sports, from both participant and spectator standpoints, grew at a phenomenal rate due, for the most part, to the mass influx of immigrants. But for the remaining years of this era, from 1914 to 1918, the impact of the War retarded the progression of most sports.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

> History is, first of all, the custodian of the collective memory and as such performs the important function of nourishing the collective ego. Second, it is in all societies a primary vehicle of the socialization of the young, teaching them the past so that they may know who they are and behave appropriately in the present. Third, it is the branch of inquiry that seeks to arrive at an accurate account and valid understanding of the past.[1]

Sports and games have always been an important constituent of Canadian culture. As such, many of the world's finest athletes have been Canadians. The names of Louis Rubenstein, Edward Hanlan, Louis Cyr, Walter Knox, George Lyon, Tom Longboat, Robert Kerr, Tommy Burns, George Hodgson, Percy Williams, Ethel Catherwood, Fanny Rosenfeld, Phil Edwards, Barbara Ann Scott, Lionel Conacher, "Rocket" Richard, Doug Hepburn, Marilyn Bell, Ann Heggtveit, Bob Hayward, Gordie Howe, and Nancy Greene are synonymous with truly outstanding athletic achievements. Such a list is, of necessity, incomplete. To illustrate, in official events at the seven summer Olympic Games and four winter Olympiads between 1908 and 1936 Canada won eighteen gold, twenty-four silver, and forty bronze medals.[2] Athletic glory for Canada has not been restricted to the Olympic Games. Other Canadians have won unofficial world championships in the era before official world championships were sanctioned; North American and European titles; British Empire and Commonwealth Games and Pan-American Games medals; world championships in the four-year interval between Olympic Games; and world championships in sports which are not recognized as Olympic events. Most present-day Canadians, however, are unaware of the colorful and highly-respected sports heritage that has been left to them. This is mainly due to the fact that, in Canada, the history of sports as a field of research has been generally neglected. "The Development of Sports in Alberta, 1900-1918" is one of a recent series of studies[3] undertaken at the University of Alberta with an aim to help rectify this pretermission.

## Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to follow the course of development of sports in that part of the Northwest Territories now included in the province of Alberta between 1900 and September 1, 1905, and in the province of Alberta from its creation to 1919.

## Need for the Study

1. The present study was designed to continue the investigation into the development of sports in the Alberta area which was initiated by Reid.[4] This research reflects Lindsay's statement that "only by further delimitations in time span and regional consideration can such a general topic (a history of sports in Canada) be more

fruitfully examined."[5]

2. As previously indicated, the body of knowledge concerned with the history of Canada's sporting heritage is noticeably incomplete. Therefore there is a need for this thesis and others similar to it, as physical educators endeavor to supplement the present information available on the history of sports in Canada.

3. J.H. Plumb wrote that

> the aim of history ... is to understand men both as individuals and in their social relationships in time. Social embraces all of man's activities ... this, of course, is not a static study but a study of movement and change. It is not only necessary to discover ... things as they actually were, but also why they were so, and why they changed; for no human societies, not one, have ever stood still.[6]

Sports have played a major role in shaping Canada's unique culture. The cultural impact of the U.S.S.R. versus Team Canada hockey series of 1972, for example, would be a complete research project in itself. Concerning Plumb's statement, sports in Canada, as a cultural phenomenon, require historical analysis and documentation in order to ensure that they are fitted into the tapestry of the overall social development of the country. Without their indepth study a significant social force may be overlooked.

## Methods and Procedures

A critical and exhaustive examination of primary and secondary sources was undertaken in an attempt to collect all relevant information pertaining to sports in the

Alberta area from 1900 to 1918. In general, primary sources included newspapers, manuscripts, autobiographies, Alberta histories, pamphlets, and articles written during this era, while secondary sources were comprised of Alberta histories, local histories, and other historical books, plus pamphlets, articles, and unpublished papers, theses, and dissertations recorded after 1918.

Chapter II was devoted to a political, economic, and social synopsis of the Alberta area, 1900-1918, and Chapter III briefly examined the status of sports in this region prior to the turn of the century. As Khan stated, "In order to understand any specific development of human society, a general historical background is helpful ...."[7]

From Chapter IV to Chapter XXII each sport which was played in the Alberta area during the period under examination was analyzed according to certain criteria. These included the extent of participation; the degree of spectator appeal; the commonality of rules; the availability of facilities; the levels of competition; the membership range and the control and jurisdiction of governing bodies; the advancement towards or the secession from local, provincial, interprovincial, national, and international championships; and the amplitude of influential factors such as educational institutions and World War I.

The interrelationship between disciplines within history is inevitable.

> Tackle any major problem in history and you will discover at once that you cannot understand it in isolation, but that you are involved in politics, international relations, science, technology, economics, psychology, and morals ... The fact is that men and women do not live in compartments labelled "politics" or "law" or "religion" or "economics"; they live in all of these simultaneously ... History is as all-embracing as life itself and the mind of man.[8]

Because of this verity, Chapter XXIII was an attempt to summarize the effect of influential forces, for instance, technology and ethnic groups, on the development of sports in the Alberta area during this era.

## Limitations

Wedgwood aptly described a formidable limitation which opposes every historian.

> The historian ... is faced a dozen times a day with the evidence of his own ignorance; he is perpetually confronted with his own humiliating inability to interpret his material correctly; he is, in a sense that no other writer is, in bondage to that material.[9]

The incompetence of the historian to construe his material correctly is largely due to mankind's instinctive habit of viewing and judging the past in terms of the present. Similarly, because the historian lacks first-hand knowledge, the language of the past is sometimes twisted to conform to current meanings.

During the early part of the century, newspapers did not provide systematic or thorough sports coverage. Far too often present-day readers are forced to adopt conjecture. Herein lies another limitation.

## Delimitations

1. Sports that are peculiar to the Indian tribes living in Alberta were not investigated. An examination of these sporting activities would require an entirely different method of research than the one which was used.

2. The geographical area studied was the territory which is known today as the province of Alberta.

3. The time period covered were the years 190[illegible] A.D. to 1918 A.D. inclusive. Nineteen-eighteen was chosen as the final year in this thesis for several related reasons. With the ending of World War I, Canadians took for granted that their country's pre-War mode of life would return.

> To resume the growth anticipated in 1914, to bring in immigrants, to break new fields, to turn out the new machines, to fill the long trains (with wheat) rumbling day and night to the seaports, to fill the wilderness with the prosperous and comfortable homes of a simple, democratic people, to realize at last the fantastic visions of the first decade of the century – these were the hopes renewed ....[10]

But these hopes were quickly extinguished. Canadians, in 1919, "found themselves in the midst of the confusing economic and social turmoil which the war had pent up and the peace had now released."[11] Gone was the old two-party system, and with it limited economic and political strife by occupational groups and classes; Canada's version of economic nationalism; the overall prosperity and contentment of the populace; and Canada's political isolation from international conflicts and controversies. Instead, the country was faced with large-scale unemployment; the "great Red scare" fostered by a consciousness contrasting

> the lot of the privileged few, who made great fortunes, were granted titles of nobility, and controlled governments in their own interest, with that of the many who were expected to do the fighting and the dying for a soldiers' pittance or to produce the materials of war for a subsistence wage;[12]

inflation, then abrupt deflation; unparalleled dissention by organized labor; the rebellion of western farmers and the formation of strong farmers' parties; and a new status in world politics and involvement. Because of these dramatic changes in the economic, political, and social climate following World War I, 1918 is a significant turning point in Canada's history.

## Definition of Terms

1. A recreational pastime is any physical activity which lacks a competitive element and which may or may not have temporary rules. Such activities are not restricted by time and space.

2. A sport is any physical activity which exhibits its characteristics of competition whereby winners and losers may be determined and which takes place in fixed boundaries of time and space. The basic rules are common to all individuals and teams and the element of advancement toward some form of championship may be present. A game *per se* is not distinguished from a sport in this study.

3. The War refers to World War I (the Great War) which was fought between the Allies and the Central Powers, 1914-1918.

4. The phrase, "during this era", denotes the time span which was examined, 1900-1918.

## Footnotes

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[4] Reid, loc. cit.

[5] Lindsay, op. cit., epilogue.

[6] J.H. Plumb, The Death of the Past, Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, Ltd., 1969, p. 105.

[7] Eraj Ahmed Khan, History of Physical Education, Patna, India: Scientific Book Company, 1964, p. v.

[8] Henry Steele Commager, The Nature of the Study of History, Columbus, Ohio: Charles E. Merrill Books, Inc., 1965, p. 26.

[9] Cicely Veronica Wedgwood, Truth and Opinion. Historical Essays, London, England: Collins Clear-Type Press, 1960, p. 103.

[10] W.L. Morton, "The 1920s," The Canadians 1867-1967, Edited by J.M.S. Careless and R.C. Brown, Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, Ltd., 1967, p. 206.

[11] Donald Creighton, Canada's First Century 1867-1967, Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, Ltd., 1970, p. 158.

[12] Roger Graham, "Through the First World War," The Canadians 1867-1967, Edited by J.M.S. Careless and R.C. Brown, Toronto: Macmillan of Canada, Ltd., 1967, p. 194.

# CHAPTER II

## THE ALBERTA SETTING

Alberta is the most westerly of the three Prairie Provinces of Canada. It has an area of 255,285 square miles, including 6,485 square miles of freshwater lakes.[1] A vast plateau, Alberta comprises roughly the third steppe of the great central plain of Canada. Alberta is bounded on the north by the 60th parallel, on the east by the province of Saskatchewan at 110°W., and on the south by the 49th parallel. The westward boundary follows the crest of the Rocky Mountains in a northwesterly direction from the extreme southwest corner of Waterton Lakes National Park to Intersection Mountain, approximately 400 miles. Here the boundary meets the meridian 120°W. which it then follows to its intersection with the 60th parallel.

Alberta falls into three natural divisions. The southern division, from the international boundary north 200 miles to the Red Deer River, is the drainage basin of the South Saskatchewan River and its tributaries. This area is mainly treeless, except in the foothills and mountains. The rolling prairie includes some excellent grain land, while the foothills region is especially suited for stock raising. In the east and far south, semiarid conditions have resulted in extensive irrigation.

The central division extends north from the Red Deer River to the center of the province. Here the parkland is adapted to both grain and mixed farming. In the west are vast belts of timber. This division is the drainage basin of the North Saskatchewan River and its branches.

The northern division comprises half the area of the province. It is a region of great rivers, lakes, and forests, interrupted only by the agricultural prairie of the Peace River country. This entire area is drained into the Mackenzie River system by three major rivers – the Athabasca, the Peace, and the Hay.

The District of Alberta, along with the Districts of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and Athabasca, was created by a Federal order-in-council in 1882. It was named in honor of Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, who along with her husband, the Marquis of Lorne, Canada's Governor General between 1878 and 1883, visited the northwest in 1881.

At the turn of the present century, the territory today known as the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan constituted the Northwest Territories of Canada. The Territories were created by an act of the Parliament of Canada in 1875, which provided for a territorial administration consisting of a Lieutenant Governor and an appointed council of five. Between 1875 and 1900, as the white population of the Northwest Territories gradually increased, the political machinery of the Territories "struggled to keep pace with the people's needs and demands."[2] By 1888 the council had evolved into a fully elected legislative assembly of twenty-two members and finally, in 1897, the Northwest Territories achieved a completely responsible system of government. From 1898, when the legislative assembly consisted of thirty-one members, until the passing of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Acts in 1905, the major point of debate in the assembly and all across the Territories was provincial autonomy.

Meanwhile other signs of development appeared in the area which was later to be Alberta. Law and order reached this region in 1874 when the North West Mounted Police established Fort Macleod, after their historic march across the prairies from Fort Garry. And in 1883 the Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R.) laid its transcontinental line through Medicine Hat, then "a town entirely of tents,"[3] Calgary, and the Kickinghorse Pass. For the most part, it was the building of railroads that opened up the vast northwest for settlement. The Alberta Railway and Coal Company, which was later known as the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company, built a narrow gauge railway from Dunmore on the main line of the C.P.R. west to Coal Banks, which is now the city of Lethbridge, in 1885. Five years later this company extended the narrow gauge track from Lethbridge to Coutts, and Great Falls, Montana; shortly afterwards they completed an extension from

Stirling to Cardston. In 1891 the Calgary-Strathcona and in 1892 the Calgary-Macleod C.P.R. lines were completed. Concluding the railway expansion in the Alberta area in the nineteenth century, the C.P.R. purchased the Dunmore to Lethbridge line in 1897, converted it to standard gauge, and extended it through the Crow's Nest Pass.[4]

However, even with the advent of responsible government, law and order, and a costly railway network, the future Alberta was but an infant child in 1900 having a population of less than 70,000. The federal census of 1901 indicated Calgary's population was 4,097, followed by Edmonton 2,626, Lethbridge 2,072, and Medicine Hat 1,570.[5] Enticed by the policies, especially the homestead regulations, of the Federal Minister of Interior, Clifford Sifton, settlers began to move into this region. Germans from Russia and Austria, Ukranians from Galicia and Bukowina, Scandinavians from Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Europe, Anglo-Saxons, and French-Canadians[6] settled the countryside along the Calgary-Strathcona railway and in the area surrounding Edmonton. South of Calgary, except for the 3,200 Mormons who had located in the Cardston-Magrath-Raymond area between 1886 and 1901,[7] large, romantic cattle ranches, that shipped their products to the markets of British Columbia, Eastern Canada, Great Britain, and the United States,[8] predominated. Of major importance to the Alberta economy at this time was the coal industry which was booming in the Anthracite-Bankhead-Canmore district, at Lethbridge, and in the Crow's Nest Pass.

"With the turn of the new century the general prosperity that accompanied the world wide rise of prices was reflected in a great wave of development that swept over the entire North-West."[9] The discovery of vast coal deposits and the lure of rich agricultural land began to attract settlers by thousands into the Alberta area. From July 1, 1901, to July 1, 1902, there were 1,495 homestead entries in the Calgary district alone.[10] The population of Alberta grew from 73,022 in 1901 to 185,412 in 1906.[11] Accompanying this wave of immigration was a great influx of capital.

There were two major results of this large-scale immigration into that part of the Northwest Territories now included in Alberta. Firstly, the cattle empire of Southern Alberta, which featured boundless ranges of lush prairie wool and thousands of thriving, roaming range cattle, came to an end. The homesteaders, wheat fields, and ever-growing fences closed the country in. In the area north and west of Cardston in 1904 the situation was described apropos by L.V. Kelly.

> Mormons were growing very strong in the south, hundreds of families entering the Province to locate. The range was cut and split by fences, the country was overrun by settlers, and the great Cochrane Ranch Company, the pioneer big ranch of Alberta, decided that the day of the big cattleman was over. They had 10,000 or 12,000 head of cattle on their great range, they owned 500,000 acres of the finest land in Southern Alberta, and they placed it

> on the market. The Mormon Church purchased this half-million tract this year (1906) at a price of $6.25 per acre, ....[12]

The second result of a rapidly-increasing Northwest Territories population was a loud clamor for provincial status. This led to the creation of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan in 1905. F.W. Hunt was present at the inaugural celebration in Edmonton, the provisional capital of Alberta, on September 1, 1905, and described the following scene.

> The day was warm and clear – typical autumn weather of Canada's middle west. Standing on the high embankment above the Saskatchewan River I looked upon the mammoth parade as it wound its way down the broad grade to the Exhibition Park on the flat. Behind me was a young city decked out in birthday splendour, with magnificent arches, spanning the principal streets. Had I stood on the same spot twenty-five years ago, and predicted such a scene to the few pioneer residents of that day, I should have been called a dreamer. Had I said that here, a thousand miles beyond the borders of civilization, in twenty-five short years would be a city dazzling and beautiful with its electric illuminations by night, teeming with thousands of busy people; that here on the river flat where the Redman camped while he exchanged his beaver-pelts for trinkets at the Hudson's Bay Company's store, would be a gathering of men and women, 20,000 strong, that 2,000 bright school children could be mustered at the schools and marched through the streets in parade, that there would be automobiles and elegant, footmen-attended carriages – had I drawn such a picture I should have been counted insane. Yet these were features – a few of the features – which marked the inaugural celebration at Edmonton on September 1st.[13]

With Sir Wilfred Laurier's Liberal administration in power at Ottawa, a staunch Liberal, George Hedley Vicars Bulyea, was appointed Alberta's first Lieutenant

Governor. Bulyea entrusted the formation of the inaugural provincial government to an equally staunch Liberal, Alexander Cameron Rutherford, a Strathcona lawyer and a former member of the obsolete Northwest Territories legislative assembly.[14] In establishing his temporary cabinet Rutherford chose four fellow Liberals — C.W. Cross of Edmonton, W.H. Cushing of Calgary, W.T. Finlay of Medicine Hat, and L.G. DeVeber of Lethbridge. The trend had been set; the Liberals under Rutherford swept to power in Alberta's first provincial election on November 9, 1905.[15]

The decade prior to World War I saw amazing growth in the new province. Writing in 1912, A.O. MacRae, principal of Western Canada College in Calgary, stated:

> The marked progress of Alberta in all departments of modern civilized life has been the wonder of present day observers. And it is not merely in industrial and commercial departments, in religious life and education, that this extraordinary development can be remarked; there is similar advance in journalism, in the establishment of secret and benevolent organizations, in athletics.[16]

Alberta's population grew from 185,412 in 1906 to 374,663 in 1911,[17] and to 470,000 by 1914.[18] Of the 1914 population, 226,000 had been born in Canada, 86,000 were Anglo-Saxon or Norse Americans from the United States, 83,000 were from Great Britain or her colonies, 67,000 Scandinavians, Germans, Hollanders, Ukranians, and French had come from mainland Europe, and the remaining 8,000 were from other areas of the globe.[19]

The railways had opened Alberta up for settlement. But in the early years of the twentieth century, incoming homesteaders found that the only available land was thirty to forty miles from the nearest C.P.R. line. Railway construction had not kept pace with immigration. For approximately seven years following the completion of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, railroad construction in Alberta was stagnant. The C.P.R. claimed they could not afford to build the branch lines petitioned for by the settlers, and instead of the railway coming to the farmer, the farmer would have to come to the railway. All this soon changed. In 1905 the Canadian Northern Railway (C.N.R.) and in 1908 the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway (G.T.P.) reached Alberta, both fledgling transcontinental lines sprouting from the east. And in 1909 the Rutherford government, "in response to the eager demands of a boom-minded public that thought any railway a good railway,"[20] inaugurated a policy of guaranteeing the bonds, a policy of subsidies, for branch lines of the C.N.R., G.T.P., and Alberta and Great Waterways Railway Companies.[21] The results were significant. From a total mileage of 1,505 miles in 1909, the mileage of Alberta's railways increased to 3,055 miles by 1912,[22] and to 3,600 miles by 1914.[23] There developed strong competition between the C.P.R., C.N.R., and G.T.P. in an attempt to satisfy the transportation needs of both agricultural and urban Alberta. In the north, following agitation by Peace River country settlers, the Edmonton-

Dunvegan-British Columbia Railway reached Peace River Crossing in 1916.

Prior to the War the development of transportation was the foremost agricultural need. Ranking second in priority was the development of irrigation in Southern Alberta. Because the territory lying south of the Red Deer River often lacked sufficient rainfall, it was admirably suited for grazing, but it was ill-suited for the growing of cereal crops. This the early settlers found out to their chagrin. But by 1903 in Southern Alberta, due to the irrigation successes of the Mormons along Lee's Creek and the St. Mary's River, there were 163 canals and ditches stretching 480 miles and irrigating 623,362 acres.[24]

In the remaining years of this era three large irrigation projects were completed in the south. The C.P.R. Company played a major role in each venture. At the turn of the century the C.P.R. owned a bloc of land, approximately 125 miles long and fifty miles wide tributary to the Bow River between Medicine Hat and Calgary, which, unless irrigated, was not fit for settlement. Here between 1904 and 1914 large portions of the western and eastern sections of this bloc were developed for agriculture. The western section, which was completed in 1911, saw 2,480 miles of canals dug at a cost of about $4,827,000.[25] The eastern section system, which was completed in 1914, featured the construction of a concrete spillway dam of the Ambursen type on the Bow River at "Horse Shoe Bend", three miles south of Bassano.[26]

In 1912 the C.P.R. bought out the interests of the Alberta Railway and Irrigation Company and their irrigation works south and east of Lethbridge. Further development on 500,000 acres in this area ensued. By 1918 practically all the irrigable land, utilizing water from both the St. Mary's and Milk Rivers, had been disposed of to settlers.[27]

It is necessary at this juncture to return to the year 1914. By that year golden fields of wheat, barley, and oats covered Alberta's landscape from the Athabasca River in the north to the 49th parallel in the south and from the Saskatchewan border in the east westward, to Edson in Central Alberta and to the foothills in the south. Sixty-two percent of Alberta's population were farmers;[28] grain acreage had increased from 650,000 acres in 1906 to 2,500,000 acres in 1914.[29] Hundreds of new villages and towns, which boasted towering grain elevators built alongside rails of steel, dotted the major arable portions of the prospering province.

Although the tremendous growth of Alberta in the decade before the War is best reflected by agricultural developments, other aspects of Alberta's society also expanded apace. Examples follow.

In education, the number of school districts increased from 716 in 1905 to 2,478 in 1915.[30] Within every new school district at least one new school was constructed. The University of Alberta, located in the city of Strathcona, opened its doors in September, 1908; normal schools were created at Calgary and Camrose in 1908 and 1912 respectively; agricultural schools were established at Olds, Claresholm, and Vermilion in 1913; and in 1916, mining schools were opened in the large mining centers of the province.[31]

In mining, production of coal jumped from 931,917 tons in 1905[32] to 3,822,000 tons in 1914.[33] By 1912 Medicine Hat utilized twelve gas wells, each yielding 3,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day and registering a pressure of 585 pounds per square inch, for heat, light, and power purposes.[34] At the same time, Canada Western Natural Gas, Light, Heat and Power Company Limited was supplying Calgary with gas via a 170-mile line from the Bow Island field.[35] This was all a prelude, however, to the striking of oil at the third Dingman well in Turner Valley, near Calgary, in May, 1914.

In transportation (excluding the railways which have already been examined), the first automobile was introduced into the Alberta area by Billy Cochrane of High River in 1903.[36] By 1913 there were 3,773 cars in the province.[37] This number increased rapidly during the War years to 9,707 in 1916 and to 20,624 in 1917. The number rose to 34,000 by 1919.[38] Although the earliest plane flight in Alberta took place at Edmonton on September 7, 1909, when Reginald Hunt flew his homemade craft for thirty-five minutes,[39] the airplane played a negligible role in this era of Alberta's history.

In communications, Alberta pioneered the public operation of telephones in Canada. The demand for telephones prior to the War was phenomenal. To illustrate, between 1909 and 1910 the total mileage of long-distance lines increased from 2,392 miles to 3,152 miles; the total mileage of rural lines increased from 1,537 miles to 2,963 miles; the total number of exchange subscribers increased from 6,176 to 8,090; while the total number of rural subscribers increased from 1,317 to 2,481.[40] Meanwhile telegraph line mileage increased yearly, generally following the expansion of the railways. North of Edmonton, the ninety-six mile line to Athabasca was put into operation on October 1, 1904. From here it was extended to Peace River Crossing by October 6, 1910.[41]

In all other areas, including public works, labor, and the judicial system, the Liberal regime between 1905 and 1918 gave Alberta solid administrative leadership. The Liberals were led by Premier Rutherford (1905-1910), Premier A.L. Sifton (1910-1917), and Premier Charles Stewart (1917-1921).

While agriculture held the spotlight in the pre-War years, over 165,000 urban-orientated immigrants built six cities ranging in population from Red Deer's 2,100 to both Calgary's and Edmonton's 72,000. The city of

Strathcona amalgamated with Edmonton in 1912. Both Lethbridge and Medicine Hat boasted populations of over 9,000 inhabitants by 1914, while Wetaskiwin claimed 2,400 souls.[42] The city of Calgary best reflected the growth of these cities. In 1901 the population of Calgary was 4,427, a figure which by 1908 had increased to 25,000. In 1909 the inhabitants of Calgary numbered 29,096, in 1910 42,000, in 1911 55,000, in 1912 61,340, and in 1913 72,000.[43] Calgary's building permits grew from $880,193 in 1904 to $12,907,638 in 1911; the total assessment of the city's realty values increased from $4,099,437 in 1904 to $112,544,400 in 1912; and Calgary's bank clearings increased from $98,754,389 in 1909 to $218,618,921 in 1911.[44] Moreover, forty-five miles west of Calgary at Horseshoe Falls, the Bow River had been harnessed. By 1912, via Alberta's first 55,000-volt long-distance transmission line, the Calgary Power Company Limited supplied electrical power to Calgary.[45]

World War I checked Alberta's rapid development. Immigration almost ceased and all energies were turned to support the War effort. Alberta's economy, which had lagged somewhat in a short pre-War recession, was incited. The province's coal mines boosted their production, the manufacture of foodstuffs greatly increased, munitions were turned out in great quantities, and financial resources were mobilized.

Like most Canadians, Albertans had come to believe that the New World was free of international conflicts and war. The First World War brought them down to earth.

> ...Albertans were jerked from a world where only profits, oil shares and land titles had count, to an unreal world where armed might with its brutality and barbarity, brushing aside all resistance and putting aside all humanity, swept across the benign Belgian countryside.[46]

Alberta, composed as it was of a large percentage of immigrants from Great Britain, quickly responded to the call for enlistment. By August, 1915, the percentage of Alberta's total population recruited stood at 3.73.[47] This was more than twice the national average. Before the War was over, 45,136 men had enlisted in Alberta for the Canadian Expeditionary Forces forming twenty battalions of infantry, four mounted regiments, three batteries of artillery, and a field ambulance unit.[48] Of the twenty battalions of infantry only Calgary's 31st and 50th and Edmonton's 49th maintained their identity in France. The men and officers of the other battalions were broken up to reinforce the three Alberta battalions on the front, and other Canadian battalions which were permitted to keep their identity.[49] In addition to Edmonton and Calgary, militia units were mobilized at Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Macleod, Cardston, Pincher Creek, and Blairmore.[50] When the War came to an end in 1918, "Alberta shared with the rest of Canada a pride in the nation's achievements and a quickened consciousness of its own future."[51]

Certain events which took place in the province during the War indicated to Albertans that they indeed lived in a changing world. The saloon, a symbol of the early west, died when prohibition was put into force in 1916 following a plebiscite. Prohibitionists included emerging women's organizations, temperance groups, church groups, and the United Farmer's of Alberta.[52] In the same year, incited by such stalwart female citizens as Henrietta Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy, and Irene Parlby, the Alberta legislature passed the Equal Suffrage Act, "which enfranchises the women of the province in connection with every public elective body in Alberta, and bestows upon them all the rights and privileges hitherto enjoyed only by members of the sterner sex,...."[53] And on March 1, 1917, the Royal North West Mounted Police, by a decision of the Federal Government, severed connection with the administration of justice in Alberta. The Alberta Provincial Police Force (A.P.P.) took over the work of the Mounted Police, who had maintained law and order in the territory now known as Alberta since 1874.[54]

In the fall of 1918, even as the November 11 armistice was being signed, Albertans were fighting another battle. This time it was the Spanish flu. The first case occurred in Calgary on October 4 and from there the epidemic spread quickly throughout the province. One month later, on November 4, Edmonton's death toll stood at 120, while on November 6 Edmonton recorded its highest number of mortalities in any one day, fifty-four. As 1919 dawned the dread disease had weakened, but not before a total of 3,259 Albertans, approximately one out of every ten who had caught the disease, had died.[55]

## Footnotes

[1] *Encyclopedia Canadiana*, 1, Ottawa: Grolier Society of Canada Limited, 1968, p. 105.

[2] James G. MacGregor, *A History of Alberta*, Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972, p. 158.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 134.

[4] John Blue, *Alberta. Past and Present*, Volume I, Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1924, pp. 313-314.

[5] Leo Thwaite, *Alberta. An Account of its Wealth and Progress*, New York: Rand McNally and Co., 1912, p. 63.

[6] MacGregor, *op. cit.*, pp. 163-170.

[7] *Ibid.*, pp. 164-165.

[8] Blue, *op. cit.*, pp. 328-329.

[9] *Ibid.*, p. 217.

[10] *Calgary Herald*, July 10, 1902.

[11] Blue, *loc. cit.*

[12] L.V. Kelly, *The Range Men. The Story of the Ranchers and Indians of Alberta*, Toronto: W. Briggs, 1913, p. 359.

[13] F.W. Hunt, "The New Provinces," *Canadian Magazine*, Vol. XXV, No. 6 (October 1905), pp. 561-562.

[14] MacGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 189.

[15] *Ibid.*, p. 190.

[16] A.O. MacRae, *History of the Province of Alberta*, Volume I, The Western Canada History Co., 1912, p. 473.

[17] Blue, *loc. cit.*

[18] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 206.

[19] Ibid.

[20] W.G. Hardy (editor), The Alberta Golden Jubilee Anthology, Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Limited, 1955, p. 173.

[21] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 209.

[22] Calgary Albertan, February 28, 1913.

[23] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 207.

[24] Blue, op. cit., p. 357.

[25] Ibid., p. 359.

[26] Ibid.

[27] Ibid., pp. 357-358.

[28] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 206.

[29] Ibid., p. 226.

[30] Blue, op. cit., p. 288.

[31] Ibid., pp. 288 and 291-293.

[32] Ibid., p. 368.

[33] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 226.

[34] Blue, op. cit., p. 371.

[35] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 221.

[36] Ibid., p. 180.

[37] Ibid., p. 237.

[38] Ibid., p. 243.

[39] Ibid., p. 218.

[40] Thwaite, op. cit., p. 151.

[41] Blue, op. cit., p. 319.

[42] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 226.

[43] Henry J. Boam (compiler), The Prairie Provinces of Canada. Their History, People, Commerce, Industries, and Resources, London, England: Sells Ltd., 1914, p. 317.

[44] Ibid.

[45] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 224.

[46] Ibid., p. 230.

[47] Edmonton Bulletin, August 11, 1915.

[48] Blue, op. cit., p. 399.

[49] Ibid.

[50] Ibid., pp. 400 and 403-405.

[51] Encyclopedia Canadiana, op. cit., p. 118.

[52] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 236.

[53] Edmonton Bulletin, March 2, 1916.

[54] J.W. Horan, West, Nor' West. A History of Alberta, Edmonton: Northgate Books, 1945, p. 29.

[55] MacGregor, op. cit., pp. 238-239.

# CHAPTER III

## SPORTS IN THE ALBERTA AREA PRIOR TO 1900

The history of sports in the Alberta area between the arrival of the first white man, Anthony Henday, in 1754,[1] and the year 1900 is not lengthy, but it is rich and varied.[2] It must be viewed in the following perspective. Until approximately 1880 that part of the vast Canadian west now included in Alberta was practically a complete wilderness. In this 255,285 square mile region there lived, in 1881, only 1,500 white men and metis.[3] It was the construction of the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway (C.P.R.) line through the future province in 1883 that opened the door to settlement. Slowly at first, but in ever-increasing numbers, adventurous immigrants from Europe, the Soviet Union, the U.S.A., and Eastern Canada journeyed by rail across Canada or trekked by wagon train from the United States to take out homesteads or to ply their trades in the villages of this near-virgin territory. The total white and metis population grew to 6,800 by 1885 and to 17,593 by 1891.[4] Ten years later, with an elaborate railway network stretching from Strathcona in the north to the international boundary in the south and from Fort Walsh in the east through both the Kickinghorse and the Crow's Nest Pass in the west, the total population of the Alberta area had grown to 73,022.[5]

The growth in participation of sports paralleled the increase in population. Prior to the 1880s team sports were virtually nonexistent. The tiny settlements of Edmonton, Fort Calgary, and Fort Macleod simply could not field two teams in any one sport. Beyond this, inter-village matches were highly impractical due to transportation costs. Playing equipment was scarce and because of the ethnic diversity none of the team sports boasted a vast following. Consequently, individual sports such as horse racing, wrestling, and athletics (running, jumping, and throwing events) were the most common sporting amusements.

However, in the 1880s and 1890s villages grew into towns and the townspeople began to take on a new life style. Industrialization, employment specialization, and urbanization meant that not only the upper class but an increasing percentage of the working class had leisure time at their disposal. In this environment team sports, such as baseball, cricket, lacrosse, association football, English rugby, curling, and ice hockey, were quickly organized and promoted. At the same time many new villages were established along the expanding railway lines. These settlements considerably reduced the distances between centers of population, which in turn resulted in the initiation of inter-village and inter-town challenge competition in many sports.

Although competition was usually at the challenge level in the pre-twentieth century years, inter-village and inter-town tournaments or meets were held in the following sports: baseball, bicycling, cricket, horse racing, rifle shooting, trap shooting, association football, English rugby, lawn tennis, curling, and hockey.[6] With two exceptions the future Alberta had not developed sufficiently before 1900 to warrant the formation of sporting leagues. Surprisingly, one exception was in the schools for Reid disclosed that during the winter of 1898-1899 the Edmonton District School Hockey League was established.[7] The second was the North West Rifle League which flourished for several years in the late 1880s and early 1890s as a result of the introduction of telegraphic meets into the Alberta area in 1888.[8]

Aside from hockey, the only other sports fostered by the schools were baseball, athletics (track and field), and association football. The High River Industrial School was probably the first educational institution to travel outside their district to compete in sports. In 1898 their association football team played in the Calgary senior tournament,[9] while a year later their hockey team, in search of competition, competed against the senior teams in both Calgary and Edmonton.[10]

The North West Mounted Police played a prominent role in the sporting life of the time. With concurrent leisure periods, the police often occupied themselves by playing games of baseball, cricket, association football, hockey, and English rugby, and by engaging in athletics, rifle shooting, and horse races. Police teams were always willing to test their athletic prowess against that of local and district clubs. The possibility of two or more teams in the same area permitted some team sports to develop before inter-village and inter-town competitions became practical.

Ethnic differences in the Alberta area exerted an influence on the type of sports enjoyed in the various localities. While some sports were familiar to all, others reflected their ethnic origin. The English Canadians were excited over two of their adopted sports, lacrosse and hockey, and the Americans loved to participate in their favorite pastime, baseball. Further, Scottish immigrants made curling and golf more popular, while the English continued their devotion to cricket, English rugby, association football, polo, hunt clubs, and lawn tennis.

The growth of sport in the future Alberta was closely associated with improved methods in communication and transportation. As previously mentioned, the telegraph was used for a number of years in the sport of rifle shooting as a means of conducting inter-club and inter-provincial meets. By pre-arrangement, rifle teams shot the necessary number of rounds on their own ranges and then telegraphed their results to each other or to the association which conducted the meet. In this way travelling expenses were eliminated. In addition, the advent of newspapers in Edmonton, Strathcona, Calgary, Fort Macleod, Cardston, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat allowed sporting enthusiasts to read about recent happenings in sport. This often resulted in individual or team challenges which were either sent via the mail service or the telegraph.

For the most part, however, it was the C.P.R. which made inter-urban contests possible. Besides providing a much more efficient mode of transportation than the horse and buggy, the railway often encouraged travel by offering special excursion rates to participants and spectators alike. In 1889 an Edmonton curling foursome journeyed to the Winnipeg bonspiel from Calgary via the C.P.R. for the special return rate of twenty-five dollars.[11] Athletes in baseball, bicycling, lacrosse, trap shooting, lawn tennis, athletics, and hockey also took advantage of the railways so that they could compete interprovincially and/or internationally. Reid reported that in 1891, following the completion of the Lethbridge-Great Falls (Montana) railway, residents of the Alberta area took part in two international competitions in the west-central Montana city. In one the Lethbridge baseball team defeated their Great Falls counterparts[12] while in the other, H. Higinbotham of the Lethbridge Tennis Club captured the singles event at the Great Falls open tennis tournament.[13]

It must be remembered that life in Alberta before the year 1900 had a strong frontier atmosphere. A large percentage of the citizens were hard-working farmers and ranchers who lived in remote rural areas. To them, sports were a means to an end rather than an end in themselves. "The physical pleasures of participation were accompanied by the social pleasures of meeting with friends and the enjoyment of the feasts and dances that were arranged in conjunction with sports meetings."[14] The two major sports' days in both rural and urban areas were celebrated on May 24th and July 1st. Athletic events were the core activities on the programs which usually included an unpredictable variety of competitions for every member of the family. To rural residents these holiday celebrations were often the social highlight of the year. In the 1890s the C.P.R. began to offer special excursion rates to the larger centers which coincided with the holiday sports. As a result, both the railway and the sports' days benefitted.

Another feature which distinguished the 1890s was the increasing participation of females in established sports. This trend was manifest throughout the Dominion as women began their battle for equality with the male. In the Alberta area ladies participated sporadically in golf, lawn tennis, athletics, rifle shooting, curling, hockey, and horse racing.

Amateur sport prevailed in that territory which was later to be Alberta. Only in athletics, boxing, horse racing, and challenge races could an athlete compete for financial rewards. Challenge races were arranged by sprinters, ice skaters, horse owners, and bicycle enthusiasts. The Indian runner, Moosewa, was a true professional, but in general the professional athlete was a rarity. When the Medicine Hat baseball club imported a catcher, by the name of Bell, from Seattle in 1896[15] it was an indication of the development of semi-professionalism which became so popular in this sport and others in the early twentieth century.

## Footnotes

[1] James G. MacGregor, *A History of Alberta*, Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972, p. 25.

[2] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, cited in the ABSTRACT.

[3] MacGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 127.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 149.

[5] John Blue, *Alberta. Past and Present*, Volume I, Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1924, p. 217.

[6] Reid, *op. cit.*

[7] *Ibid.*, pp. 74-75.

[8] *Ibid.*, pp. 41-42.

[9] *Ibid.*, p. 47.

[10] *Ibid.*, p. 75.

[11] *Ibid.*, p. 65.

[12] *Ibid.*, pp. 16-17.

[13] *Ibid.*, p. 53.

[14] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, *Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present*, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, p. 54.

[15] Reid, *op. cit.*, pp. 17-18.

# CHAPTER IV

## AQUATIC SPORTS

Primary source material gleanings indicate that between 1900 and 1918 aquatic sports were in a fledgling state of development. Participation in aquaplaning and yachting was, almost certainly, very uncommon. Aquaplaning, canoeing, motorboating, rowing, sailing, diving, water polo, and yachting all followed divergent patterns, that is, there was absolutely no systematic development. Only in swimming did a framework of organization begin to evolve, a situation largely due to the efforts of the Y.M.C.A.s at Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge.

### Aquaplaning

Aquaplaning was born in the wake of the development of motorboating as a sport. Participation in this crude form of water-skiing was limited to a few enterprising members of the upper class who owned high-powered motorboats. The first newspaper reference to this sport appeared in July, 1914, when an aquaplaning event was scheduled for the second annual regatta of the Seba Boating Club.[1] One year later the Edmonton Bulletin reported that:

> Lake and river water fans have taken to aquaplaning, a sport in which a swimmer rides a plank being hauled through the

> water by a motor boat. Some can ride while being hauled at 30 miles an hour. The rider should be a good swimmer as duckings are frequent.[2]

No further information on aquaplaning was found.

## Canoeing, Motorboating, Rowing, and Sailing

During this era, technological innovations related to advancements in transportation, urbanization, and industrialization had a noticeable effect on motorboating, rowing, and sailing, sports which were rarely participated in at the turn of the century. One denouement of urbanization and industrialization was a shorter working week, especially for urban dwellers, with the result that many residents of the Alberta area acquired more leisure time. Canoes, motorboats (including the internal-combustion engine), rowboats, sculls, skiffs, and sailboats were constantly being improved and more economically produced thereby making them available to more people with a resultant increase in participation. At the same time, improvements in transportation made it more feasible financially for holidaying citizens to visit one of the developing resort areas. It was the affluent of the province, for the most part, who seized these opportunities to popularize summer weekends and holidays "at the cottage or tent on the lake."

The earliest account of boating in the future Alberta appeared in the Edmonton Bulletin in May, 1900, and spoke of the impending boating season at Cooking Lake.

> The "Season" at Koney Island and Cooking Lake opened on the 24th (of May), a number of townspeople having driven out to launch the boats, open the club houses and prepare the island for the coming camping season. A very creditable sized fleet of pleasure craft sail the waters of the lake. Among the sail boats are the Mud Hen, of the Koney Island club, and the Witch owned by Dr. Harrison and F.A. Osborne. The club also have at the lake a gasoline launch. A little steamer, the Jean, owned by K.A. McLeod was launched on Thursday, completing a very successful trial trip. Innumerable row boats and canoes complete the pleasure craft.[3]

It was in this milieu that the canoe, the rowboat, the sailboat, and by approximately 1910, the motorboat, became media not only for recreation but also for competitive racing.

Canoe, motorboat, rowing and sculling, and sailing races were usually held in conjunction with regattas. These aquatic carnivals were sponsored by boating clubs, canoe clubs, aquatic associations, and holiday sports committees. A sailing regatta on Buffalo Lake in 1900[4] was one of the earliest regattas held in the Alberta area. Several years later the Leduc regatta gained some notoriety.[5] By 1914 due to science and technology, the Banff Boating Club,[6] Lethbridge Aquatic Association,[7] Sylvan Lake,[8] Gull Lake,[9] Wabamun,[10] Seba Boating Club,[11] and Edmonton Canoe Club[12] regattas had all become prospering affairs from both participant and spectator points of view.

The events contested varied considerably from one regatta to the next, but always included competitions for both male and female water sport enthusiasts. In 1913 the first annual regatta under the auspices of the Seba Boating Club was held on Lake Wabamun and was composed of the following events:

> 1) Dinghy sailing race, 6 miles; 2) Canoe sailing race, 2 miles; 3) Sponson canoe race, men's doubles, 200 yards; 4) Sponson canoe race, mixed doubles, 200 yards; 5) Sponson canoe race, girls' doubles, under 15 years, 200 yards; 6) Sponson canoe race, ladies' doubles, 200 yards; 7) Evinrude motor canoe race, 2 miles; 8) Sponson canoe race, boys' doubles, under 15 years, 200 yards; 9) Sponson canoe race, men's singles, 200 yards; 10) Sponson canoe race, ladies' singles, 100 yards; 11) Peterboro and other light canoes, men's doubles, 200 yards; 12) Motor boat race, Evinrudes, two miles, canoes barred; 13) Rowing race, men's doubles, 200 yards; 14) Rowing race, men's singles, 200 yards; 15) Rowing race, mixed doubles, 200 yards; 16) Rowing race, ladies' singles, 200 yards; 17) Rowing race, boys' doubles, 15 and under, 200 yards; 18) Rowing race, girls' doubles, 15 and under, 200 yards; 19) Handicap motor boat race, 6 miles; 20) Tub race; 21) Swimming race, men, 75 yards; 22) Swimming race, boys under 15, 25 yards; 23) Swimming race on back, 50 yards; 24) Diving, men, neat; 25) Diving, boys 15 years and under, neat; 26) Novelty motor boat race; and 27) Motor boat race, free-for-all, 12 miles.[13]

It should be noted that the use of the sponson canoe in preference to the common canoe was not extensive in other parts of Alberta.

The expense of canoeing, motorboating, rowing, and sailing was, to a great degree, prohibitive for all but the wealthy. Individual transportation costs, the price of the craft themselves, plus high membership fees to boating clubs limited participation in these sports.

## Diving

Diving was in an inchoate stage of development during this era. Participants were few in number and competitions were infrequent. When they were held, events contested were the long plunge which was judged for distance, the neat dive which was judged for form, and occasionally the fancy dive. These contests generally took place in concurrence with Y.M.C.A.-sponsored programs or swimming meets, or during regattas.

## Swimming

Despite the coldness of many of Alberta's lakes and the glacier-fed rivers and streams, swimming had many devotees during this era. For most it was a pleasurable pastime on a hot, muggy summer day. Since swimming pools, which were commonly known as swimming baths, were a rarity, each community possessed a favorite swimming hole. Competitive swimming did not blossom until new Y.M.C.A. buildings housing indoor pools were completed at Edmonton in 1908, at Calgary in 1909, and at Lethbridge in 1911. For the remaining years of this period, competitive swimming was, for the most part, confined to these large urban centers.

One of the first swimming baths in Alberta was located at Brown's rink in Calgary.[14] It operated for one year, 1902, and was the result of unaided and arduous work on the part of a Mr. Snell, an instructor at the manual training school, and some of his students.[15] Calgary's 5,000 citizens welcomed the addition of this swimming institute which provided opportunities for both wholesome recreation and swimming lessons. In July of that year 135 boys and girls were engaged there in learning the skills of swimming.[16]

In 1903, the overwhelming success of Calgary's 1902 pool and a growing awareness of the importance of swimming instruction prompted the Calgary Public School to build a swimming complex across the street from the hall of learning on Northcote Avenue.[17] This complex, consisting of a bath twenty-four feet by sixty feet and an adjacent building thirty feet by seventy feet, which contained changing rooms, lavatories, and so forth, was erected at a cost of $2,400.[18] The water was heated by two boilers to a temperature in the seventy-five degree Fahrenheit range, and was constantly being changed thanks to innovations by Calgary's waterworks department. It is interesting to note that when this pool opened, certain hours three times a week were reserved for ladies and that a lady attendant was placed in charge during those times.[19]

In the ensuing years the Calgary Public School's pool gained immense popularity. Besides providing recreational swimming for both the school children and the public, it offered swimming lessons[20] and was the site of occasional swimming carnivals. A carnival held in September of 1904 was made up of the following events: general

Figure 1. Motorboating on Lake Wabamun prior to 1914.

Bathing at Cave & Basin, Banff

Figure 2. The Cave and Basin swimming pool at Banff in the early 1900s.

swim and dive, twenty yards handicap race, plunging, one-quarter mile scratch race, high dive, twenty yards race for second-rate swimmers, swimming with hands tied, and 100 yards junior championship race.[21] It seems probable that this pool came to an end in 1910 for in June of that year the Calgary Amateur Swimming Association was forced to disband "owing to the regrettable fact that the swimming bath of the club has been recently sold and converted into an auto garage."[22] Prior to 1910 there were no other swimming baths reported by the Calgary press with the exception of the Y.M.C.A. pool which existed until 1964.

At Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge the influence of the Y.M.C.A.s on the sport of swimming was paramount. In 1909 the Calgary "Y" instituted the Alberta Amateur Swimming Championships.[23] This provincial championship meet, which was an annual affair for five years, 1909-1913, proved to be the needed fillip for competitive swimming. Events contested at the 1911 meet were senior (over eighteen years of age) – 100 yard race, seventy-five yard race, fifty yard race, twenty-five yard race, fifty yard breaststroke, fifty yard backstroke, long plunge, neat dive, and relay race (200 yards, four men per team); junior (fifteen to eighteen years of age) – fifty yard race, twenty-five yard race, fifty yard breaststroke, one length backstroke, long plunge, and neat dive; and juvenile (twelve to fourteen years of age) – fifty yard race, twenty-five yard race, one length breaststroke, one length backstroke, and neat dive.[24] Reg Mundy of Calgary was Alberta's leading swimmer between 1909 and 1912. At the 1910 Alberta championships he won all four of the open sprint events in the senior class.[25] In 1913 a seventeen-year-old Edmontonian, Ockenden, smashed Mundy's fifty yard and 100 yard provincial sprint records with clockings of 30.4 seconds and 1:10.4 minutes respectively. Ockenden used a combination trudgen and crawl stroke.[26] Interestingly, during the 1911 provincial championship meet the Calgary News-Telegram reported that in the sprints "The trudgeon stroke proved to be the most popular, while the English over-arm ranked a close second. One man alone used the crawl to advantage."[27] From 1914 through 1918, World War I necessitated a five-year postponement of the Alberta Amateur Swimming Championships. Besides the provincial meets, competitive swimming during this era was generally restricted to local Y.M.C.A. meets or galas, and to regattas.

The contribution made by the Y.M.C.A.s in swimming was not limited to the competitive aspect. In addition the "Y"s emphasized swimming instruction and frequently conducted swimming lessons which were open to all men and boys, regardless if they were Y.M.C.A. members or not;[28] and offered and encouraged participation in life saving courses.[29] This was an era in which swimming instruction and life saving gained tremendous impetus across Canada as an effort was made to reduce the high rate of deaths by drowning.

The number of recreational swimmers in the Alberta area increased significantly as a result of the Y.M.C.A. instructional programs and large-scale immigration. But because civic governments considered them an unnecessary luxury, the construction of swimming pools did not keep pace. In Calgary, the Baxters realized this problem and in 1915 installed, on the corner of Seventh Avenue and Eighth Street West, a thirty-six feet by ninety feet cement tank, which was known as the Crystal Swimming Pool.[30] Even with this addition Calgary did not have sufficient swimming facilities. The Albertan pondered this situation in a March, 1917, article.

> Each year the Y.M.C.A. teaches hundreds of boys to swim ...
>
> As those youngsters learn they have no place to practice. The "Y" pool can accommodate only a limited number. The Crystal pool is open only for a few months and its accommodation, too, is limited. What is needed are basins in the river — at St. George's Island, at Mewata Park on the Bow, and near Elbow Park on the Elbow River.[31]

Meanwhile at Banff, the fame of the Cave and Basin Sulphur Springs both as a facility which possessed curative qualities for rheumatism and kindred diseases and as a superb facility for recreational swimming had spread throughout the world. Statistics best depict the popularity of these natural springs. In July, 1901, 1,020 bathers used the Cave and Basin;[32] six years later in the month of July, this number had increased to over

8,000.[33] In 1912 the Federal Department of the Interior constructed a new swimming pool at these sulphur springs. Measuring thirty-five feet by 150 feet, it was lined with white enamelled brick and constructed after the style of the old Roman baths.[34] This pool became the greatest attraction of Banff National Park for the younger generation of tourists.[35] At the Upper Hot Springs, a new complex, including a hot plunge, a large swimming basin, tubs, sweat rooms, showers, and cooling rooms, was opened in 1903.[36] During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1917, 20,000 bathers used these inadequate facilities.[37] Certainly by 1918 recreational swimming at Banff had become popular to an extent unimaginable in 1900.

Except in Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge where the Y.M.C.A.s furthered the development of the sport, competitive swimming in Alberta during this era was practically nonexistent. This was largely due to the dearth of swimming pools and the absence of any provincial organization.

## Water Polo

The sport of water polo was in embryo. For the most part, competitions were isolated challenge matches between groups of individuals seeking aquatic diversion. It seems likely that water polo was first played in the Alberta area at Banff where the sport was introduced to the pools of the Cave and Basin in 1906.[38] Two years later the Calgary Albertan reported that "Banff played the return match at water polo with Regina in the large pool of the basin ..."[39] In a thirty-minute game featuring eight men per team, Banff defeated Regina 3-2. Dr. R.G. Brett, a prominent Banff citizen, refereed the contest.[40]

The Y.M.C.A.s promoted the development of water polo to a certain extent. In Edmonton, although the sport was played at the Y.M.C.A. pool as early as 1909,[41] it was not until 1912 that an effort was made by the "Y" to organize a club.[42] That same year, the newly-formed Edmonton Amateur Swimming Club cited as one of its objectives the instruction in the skills of and the encouragement in the development of the sport of water polo.[43] During the winters of 1912-1913 and 1913-1914, as a result of cooperation between the Edmonton swimming club and the Edmonton Y.M.C.A., water polo exhibition games in the capital took place with an increasing frequency. Regrettably, between 1914 and 1918, the War stymied the progression of this sport.

## Yachting

Somewhat surprising since it is generally considered an oceanic sport, yachting played a part in the lives of a few Albertans during this period. At the turn of the century, yachting was reported on Gull Lake[44] where in 1906 Charles R. Hemborg was president of the Saratoga Yacht Club.[45] Six years later Leo Thwaite recorded in his book, Alberta. An Account of its Wealth and Progress, that "Several yacht clubs flourish in the province; the Camrose Yacht Club in particular has done much to popularize Lake Miquelon, situated picturesquely some miles east of Wetaskiwin."[46]

Unfortunately, elucidating details are not available. Therefore we do not know to what extent yachting was a recreational pastime; to what extent yachting was a competitive sport; and whether or not yachting in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918 was simply glorified sailing.

## Footnotes

[1] Edmonton Bulletin, July 16, 1914.

[2] Ibid., August 5, 1915.

[3] Ibid., May 28, 1900.

[4] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, Figure 60.

[5] Edmonton Bulletin, August 21, 1903 and August 1, 1906.

[6] Banff Crag and Canyon, May 25, 1912 and May 31, 1913.

[7] Lethbridge Herald, August 31, 1912.

[8] Red Deer News, July 16, 1913.

[9] Calgary Albertan, August 6, 1913.

[10] Edmonton Bulletin, August 1, 1913 and July 21, 1914.

[11] Ibid., August 16, 1913 and July 16, 1914.

[12] Ibid., September 18, 1914.

[13] Ibid., August 16, 1913.

[14] Calgary Herald, May 1 and June 12, 1902.

[15] Ibid., July 17, 1902.

[16] Ibid., July 3, 1902.

[17] Ibid., April 16, 1903.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Ibid., June 4, 1903.

[20] Ibid., and Calgary Albertan, May 17, 1907.

[21] Calgary Herald, September 8, 1904.

[22] Calgary Albertan, June 27, 1910.

[23] Ibid., June 25, 1909.

[24] Calgary News-Telegram, September 28, 1911 and Calgary Albertan, September 9, 1911.

[25] Calgary Albertan, October 4, 1911.

[26] Ibid., December 30 and 31, 1913.

[27] Calgary News-Telegram, September 29, 1911.

[28] For example, see Edmonton Bulletin, July 7, 1909, October 6, 1910, March 16 and 27, 1911, June 30, 1911, April 24, 1912 and Calgary Albertan, November 18, 1912, April 12, 1915, March 17, 1917.

[29] For example, see Edmonton Bulletin, October 6, 1910, January 3, 1914, and September 25, 1915.

[30] Calgary News-Telegram, May 26, 1915 and Calgary Albertan, June 4, 1915.

[31] Calgary Albertan, March 17, 1917.

[32] Banff Crag and Canyon, August 12, 1901.

[33] Calgary Albertan, August 26, 1907.

[34] Banff Crag and Canyon, August 31, 1912.

[35] Ibid., March 31, 1917.

[36] Ibid., June 20, 1903.

[37] Ibid., March 31, 1917.

[38] Brad L. Kilb, "Sport in Banff Before 1914," Unpublished paper, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1967, p. 38.

[39] Calgary Albertan, August 10, 1908.

[40] Ibid.

[41] Edmonton Bulletin, February 2, 1909.

[42] Ibid., May 18, 1912.

[43] Ibid., November 26, 1912.

[44] Ibid., July 9, 1900.

[45] Calgary Herald, June 14, 1906.

[46] Leo Thwaite, Alberta. An Account of its Wealth and Progress, New York: Rand McNally and Co., 1912, pp. 208-209.

## CHAPTER V

## ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

Association football, which is known today in Canada as soccer, "was perhaps the first team sport to be played in the Alberta area ... The earliest reference to the game of soccer was made by John McDougall in 1862."[1] That part of the Northwest Territories now included in Alberta was settled, for the most part, by Englishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen, and Irishmen, in whose countries association football was a leading sport, and by Eastern Canadians of British or Irish ancestry. Because of this and the fact that the only equipment required to play the game was an inflated ball, association football was probably the most popular summertime participant sport in this region. This theory is supported by newspaper gleanings.

At the turn of the century, association football was played mainly at the challenge level between towns, villages, school districts, and schools. In the Edmonton locality in 1900, challenge matches were frequently arranged between two of the following teams: Edmonton school, Strathcona school, Whitford,[2] Sturgeon, Fort Saskatchewan, Sunnyside, Camilla,[3] Strathcona town, Poplar Lake,[4] Edmonton town, and Edmonton Fire Brigade.[5] Another form of competition, the tournament, also gained popularity in the early 1900s. In 1902 Strathcona won the four-team tournament which was held in conjunction with Edmonton's Great Summer Fair.[6] A year later, this same town captured the $100 first-place prize money at the Red Deer tourney,[7] while Calgary Y.M.C.A. won the Victoria Day tournament in Calgary over teams from Okotoks, Calgary C.P.R., Didsbury, and Macleod.[8]

Prior to 1906 the Calgary Association Football League, which was also referred to as the Northwest Territories Association Football League, was the only successful soccer league that operated in the Alberta area. It appears as if inter-town and inter-village leagues were nonexistent. This was due to the distances between centers of population, poor transportation, and widespread participation in the sport which meant that local competition was not difficult to obtain. The Calgary league was originally structured in the form of a tournament, the Northwest Territories Championship Tournament, which was inaugurated in 1898.[9] In 1900 the league proper was formed and embraced six teams at the outset. These were the Y.M.C.A., Fire Brigade, Dunbow Industrial School, N.W.M.P., Calgary city, and Calgary Industrial School.[10] The dominant team during this period was the North West Mounted Police eleven. For five consecutive years, 1898-1902, they captured the Merchants' Cup, emblematic of the championship of the Calgary Association Football League.[11]

Fostered by a steadily increasing influx of immigrants from the United Kingdom, association football took on a new dimension in 1906. That year two new independent leagues, the High River District[12] and the Crow's Nest Pass,[13] were formed in Southern Alberta while at Red Deer in May, the Alberta Football Association (A.F.A.) was formally constituted.[14] In addition, 1906 was a milestone in the development of the sport in the schools. Under the leadership of their principal, Dr. Rev. MacRae, Calgary's Western Canada College (W.C.C.) pioneered in two areas. In the first place, they made the earliest tour of Southern Alberta by a Calgary association football club playing games at Okotoks, High River, Macleod, and Lethbridge.[15] Secondly, this private school along with the Calgary high school and Calgary normal school organized the first school association football league in the province.[16]

The establishment of the A.F.A. was the original attempt to organize association football on a provincial scale. In regard to its composition, the following motion was adopted at the May, 1906, organizational meeting.

> All clubs in the province will be eligible for membership, and application for membership may be made to the secretary at any time before June 1st. The clubs will then be put into suitable districts and a vice-president appointed to look after the schedule in each of such districts. The winners in the districts will play off for the championship and the champions will then be eligible for the Dominion championship.[17]

However, during its three-year existence the A.F.A. did not become provincial in scope since all its member districts were located in Central Alberta. The Calgary senior league, which exerted a considerable influence over other leagues and teams in Southern Alberta, refused to join the A.F.A. "on account of its method of organization and its excessive claims."[18] Although Southern Alberta was not represented at the initial meeting of the Alberta Football Association, citizens from Lethbridge and Calgary were elected to the association's executive committee.[19] Because of this and the fact that the A.F.A. invited all clubs in the province to become members, the A.F.A. proclaimed its champion team to be the Alberta champions. In an attempt to minimize the effectiveness of the A.F.A. and, at the same time, organize association football in Southern Alberta, clubs in this region formed the Alberta Provincial Association Football Union at a meeting in High River in June, 1907.[20] Two years later, realizing their frivolity, Alberta's two pioneer football associations united to form an all-encompassing Alberta Association Football League (A.A.F.L.).[21] It is highly probable that the differences which existed between the A.F.A. and soccer leagues in Southern Alberta in 1906, 1907, and 1908 were, to a great extent, the result of political animosity which had developed at that time between Central and Southern Alberta over such issues as the seat of government and the location of the University of Alberta.

Between its formation at Red Deer on April 30, 1909, and the end of this era, the A.A.F.L. did very little to promote the growth of association football. In actuality, the only function which it performed each year was the arranging of districts for competition between senior teams and the scheduling of provincial playoffs between district winners. As a result of the vast popularity of association football, there were many avenues through which the sport could have been developed. Intermediate and junior provincial leagues could have been inaugurated; moreover, the senior league should have been divided into "A", "B", and "C" divisions according to the population of member centers. As it was, the number of districts and clubs associated with the A.A.F.L. decreased after 1909 when it became apparent to many villages and towns that it was not practical to compete in the same division with the more powerful teams from the cities.

Even though association football received little guidance from the A.F.A., the Alberta Provincial Association Football Union, or the A.A.F.L. between 1906 and 1914, the sport grew rapidly in both participant and spectator appeal. In essence, the growth of soccer paralleled Alberta's increase in population from 185,412 in 1906[22] to 470,000 in 1914.[23] Out of the province's 1914 population, 83,000 citizens had come from Great Britain or her colonies while over 300,000 were of mainly British backgrounds.[24] Therefore it is not surprising that association football thrived during this period of minimal provincial organization for the people themselves were the organizers and promoters of the sport.

In 1912 Leo Thwaite wrote that Alberta considered herself the banner province of Canada with respect to soccer football.[25] A review of the accomplishments of senior association football teams in Alberta from 1906 to 1912 tends to substantiate Thwaite's statement. In 1906 the Calgary Caledonians, who were commonly known as the Callies, won the Calgary senior league for the third consecutive year and decided the time was appropriate to look for wider horizons to conquer. Despite the fact that neither they nor Pincher Creek were members of the A.F.A., the Caledonians claimed the Alberta championship (unofficial) when they defeated the southern town, winners of the Crow's Nest Pass league, three goals to two in a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series.[26] Later in the year, the acknowledged Western Canadian champions, Minnedosa, Manitoba, invited the Callies eastward to test their skill and stamina. Calgary successfully climaxed their season by first defeating Minnedosa 2-0 in the Manitoba center, and then disposing of the Winnipeg Celtics 1-0 at River Park in Winnipeg.[27]

Because of their 1906 accomplishments on the playing field, the Caledonians were conceded the right to represent Alberta at the initial People's Shield tournament which was held in July, 1907, at Winnipeg.[28] This

Shield was presented by the People's newspaper of England to the Canadian Football Association and became symbolic of the Dominion championship. At the Winnipeg tournament the Callies won the Shield and the association football championship of Canada by defeating Toronto Thistles 2-0 and Winnipeg Brittanias 1-0.[29] In 1908 the Calgary Caledonian eleven retained the Canadian championship. They defeated Vancouver Thistles 7-0 in a semi-final game and Ladysmith 2-1 in the final match of the championships which were held at the West Coast.[30]

Calgary hosted the 1909 People's Shield tournament at Victoria Park. In first round action the defending champions easily defeated Regina Victorias 4-0.[31] However in the championship game, the Callies could only manage a goalless draw against the Vancouver Celtics before 1,200 spectators, the largest soccer crowd to that date in Calgary's history. This game was played on a Saturday evening and the Vancouver club, claiming business commitments, was unable to stay in Calgary until Monday when a replay was scheduled. Thus by the default of the Vancouver team, the Caledonians were awarded the tournament and became holders of the People's Shield for the third successive year.[32]

In 1910 the Canadian championships were held in Toronto. But the Calgary Caledonians, the most dominant soccer aggregation in Canada, did not attend for two reasons. First, they were handicapped by financial difficulties,[33] and second, they were annoyed at the unfair and unsportsmanlike treatment which they had received from R.A. Parker,[34] the lone trustee of the People's Shield. The Calgary Albertan elaborated on the Callies' dissatisfaction with Mr. Parker.

> The Caledonians ... believe that the Shield, as managed by this man Parker, really means nothing and is not regarded as meaning anything, and that it has become a source of annoyance and aggravation rather than anything else... They have been treated most unfairly by Parker, who has vexed them beyond endurance, ignored the team, though champions, and otherwise insulted them. He endeavored to professionalize some of the men. He started untruthful stories about them. He misrepresented them and tried to get the Shield away from them by unfair means. The Caledonians under the circumstances were quite right in declining to follow the Shield.[35]

Alberta's representatives at the 1910 People's Shield tournament at Toronto were the Calgary Hillhursts, the team which had finished second to the Caledonians that year in the Calgary senior league. To the surprise of many Eastern Canadian football enthusiasts, the Hillhurst club swept to the Dominion championship. In doing so they defeated Toronto Thistles 3-1, Fort William 2-0, and Hamilton 3-2 after twenty minutes of overtime.[36] This proved conclusively that the highest quality of association football being played in Canada at this time was played in Alberta.

The year 1911 featured international competition for association footballers in Edmonton and Calgary. In late August, England's most famous amateur team, the Corinthians, arrived in Alberta on their Canadian tour. Here they defeated the Edmonton All-Stars 6-1 before 2,100 fans in the capital[37] and edged the Calgary All-Stars 4-3 before approximately 4,000 spectators in that city.[38] In spite of their defeats, the standard of play exhibited by the Alberta players impressed the Corinthian squad. In reference to this the Albertan stated that:

> Calgary in particular got freely advertised through this visit not only throughout the Dominion but in the British Isles as well for the match here was looked upon (by the Corinthians) to be the toughest of the whole series. It proved to be so for the Corinthians were given a hard fight....[39]

In a reciprocal display of benevolence, the Calgary Hillhurst Association Football Club made a tour of Great Britain in the fall of 1911. This was the first time that any single Canadian association football club had sent a team to the old country.[40] Under the leadership of Mr. Frank Riley, Calgary Hillhurst departed on September 23. Unfortunately the proposed itinerary, which included thirty games to be played over a three-month period,[41] proved to be too much for the thirteen-man Hillhurst roster. A rash of injuries overwhelmed the squad and necessitated a premature termination of their trip.[42]

It does not appear as if the People's Shield tournament was held in 1911, for the newspapers and other source materials do not make reference to one. In 1912 the tournament was held at Winnipeg. Alberta's champions, the Calgary Caledonians, balked at the opportunity to represent the province for the same reasons that they cited in 1910. The Lethbridge Miners, on the other hand, by virtue of rule 3 of the People's Shield which stated that "the competitions shall be open to challenge to any club affiliated with the recognized provincial amateur football association ...,"[43] enthusiastically accepted the responsibility of being Alberta's sole entrant. For a while it looked as though the Lethbridge crew would return from Winnipeg with the People's Shield. In succession they defeated Saskatoon 3-0, Prince Albert 3-1, and Winnipeg Norwood 2-0.[44] But in the crucial championship game the Miners were defeated by Fort William C.P.R. 3-0.[45]

Also in 1912, a truly representative national governing body for soccer, the Dominion Football Association, was formed at a meeting in Winnipeg.[46] This association immediately supplanted the R.A. Parker-dominated Canadian Football Association. Similarly the Connaught Cup, donated by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, replaced the People's Shield as the premier trophy open for annual competition between amateur teams from member provincial associations. Alberta was not represented at the 1913 Connaught Cup playoffs owing to the tardiness with which the notices of the games were sent to the provincial champions, the Calgary Caledonians.[47] Association football authorities in Alberta voiced the opinion that self-appointed eastern officials had purposely avoided the strong

Calgary Caledonian club. With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Alberta had to wait until 1919 before it was represented in a Connaught Cup competition.

On the provincial level during this era, the Bennett Shield was the most highly-regarded trophy open to competition. It was presented by Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennett of Calgary in August of 1907 for annual competition for the amateur association football championship of Alberta,[48] but the first Bennett Shield competition was not held until 1908 when a single elimination tournament encompassing teams from Edmonton, Bankhead, Lethbridge, and Calgary was a feature attraction at the Calgary Exhibition. In the finals, the defending Canadian champions, the Calgary Callies, emerged victorious as they defeated the Edmonton Caledonians 1-0.[49] In 1909 the Bennett Shield became emblematic of the championship of the newly-formed Alberta Association Football League. That year and in 1910, 1911, and 1912 the Calgary Callies maintained their dominance of the Bennett trophy.[50] In 1913 the Edmonton Caledonian club finally broke the Callies' monopoly of the provincial championship when they defeated the southern eleven 2-0 in the sudden-death championship game.[51] A year later, the Alberta championship went undecided. This was due to the War excitement and the sudden loss of many players to the military, and the dilatoriness of the A.A.F.L. executive in arranging the playoffs. Lloydminster won the Bennett Shield in 1915 by default when the Calgary Callies could not finance a trip to the border town where the sudden-death final was to be played.[52] In 1916, 1917, and 1918 the A.A.F.L. postponed the Bennett Shield competition because of the War.

There is little doubt that the Calgary Caledonians were the most outstanding association football team in Canada during this era. This famous football club was organized on April 26, 1904, at Grand Central Hotel.[53] Minutes from their first meeting read:

> Club colors, black and white jerseys with white knickers. Membership 50¢. Club practice, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Any three players can get ball for practice, trainer to keep ball.[54]

Jimmy McEwan and Bill Stewart were the first promoters of the club.[55] Besides their five provincial and three national titles, the Callies won the strong Calgary senior league every year from 1904 through 1915.[56] The strength of this league was reflected in 1910 when the Hillhurst club, which finished in second place behind the Caledonians, won the Dominion championship in Toronto. As their name indicates, the Callies were composed of players of Scottish lineage. To illustrate, the members of the 1909 Canadian championship team were all born in Scotland and had all learned to play the game there.[57]

In addition to the immigrants themselves, the schools and the railways must be given considerable credit for the development of association football. The schools encouraged participation in soccer throughout this era due, in part, to the fact that the sport was a wholesome activity and could be played without a huge expenditure for equipment. In the early 1900s challenge games were the rule.[58] But like it did in other areas, association football evolved apace in the schools. Inter-town and inter-city games between high schools and preparatory colleges became common. In both 1908 and 1910 Alberta College of Edmonton and Calgary Normal School played two-game, home-and-home series.[59] Also, in 1909 the Rutherford Cup was put up for challenge competition between high schools in Central Alberta. That year, Edmonton High School defeated Strathcona High School 4-0 and Red Deer High School 1-0 to gain indisputable possession of the trophy.[60] Between 1909 and 1918, the Rutherford Cup spent approximately an equal amount of time in the possession of the Strathcona, Red Deer, and Edmonton (Victoria) high schools.[61]

At the public school level, the first association football league reported in Alberta operated at Edmonton in 1911. It encompassed five teams, one each from the Queen's Avenue, McKay Avenue, Alex Taylor, Oliver, and Norwood public schools.[62] By 1914 this league had expanded to twenty-three teams and four divisions.[63] At Calgary in 1914, fifteen teams competed in the first soccer program ever conducted in that city's public schools.[64] Three years later the Calgary public schools' soccer schedule had been increased to include thirty-four teams in ten leagues which were divided as follows:

> Junior Division (80 lbs. and under), 15 teams in 4 leagues; Intermediate Division (under 105 lbs.), 12 teams in 4 leagues; and Senior Division (over 105 and under 135 lbs.), 7 teams in 2 leagues.[65]

By the end of this era, public school association football leagues abounded in Alberta cities. Elsewhere, distances between schools proved to be a deterrent to the formation of leagues.

Highlighting the association football which was played at the University of Alberta (U. of A.) during this period were three inter-university matches against the University of Saskatchewan (U. of S.). The first game was played in 1911 at Edmonton and resulted in a 3-1 victory for the U. of S.[66] A year later at Saskatoon the Saskatchewan eleven, by a score of 1-0, again triumphed over their Alberta counterparts.[67] Back at Edmonton in 1913 the U. of A. gained some revenge when they won 3-0, despite the fact that "Saskatchewan ... fielded a veteran team, with a large advantage in weight and confidence."[68]

As was the case with the development of many of Alberta's sports programs, the railways played a major role in furthering the emergence of association football. Railway expansion in Alberta was at its peak from 1906 to 1914. Canada's three transcontinental railways – the C.P.R., C.N.R., and G.T.P. – increased the province's total railway mileage from 1,060 miles on December 31, 1905,[69] to 3,600 miles by 1914.[70] Usually the completion of a main or a branch line resulted in the immediate creation of at least one inter-village association football circuit. For example, between 1906 and 1910 the C.P.R. extended their branch line from Lacombe to Stettler eastward onto the bald prairie.[71] A year after this line was completed there flourished along it a league embracing Castor, Alix, Halkirk, Stettler, and Gadsby. J.O. Young of Castor donated a beautiful solid silver cup which was to be emblematic of the league championship.[72]

It is clearly evident from the reading of newspapers that by 1914 association football was one of the two most popular summer participant and spectator sports in Alberta (the other was baseball). Rural, village, inter-village, town, inter-town, and urban leagues were all common. In Calgary and Edmonton the following leagues were popular: boys' (juvenile), junior, intermediate, senior, commercial, trades and labor, church, Sunday school, public school, and intercollegiate (including high schools and preparatory colleges). About half of the teams which competed in the urban intermediate and senior leagues revealed a strong ethnic influence. Besides the Caledonians, such teams as the Sons of England, Sons of Scotland, Welsh, St. George's, Hibernians, Lancashires, and Tynesiders were often league entrants. Many towns and cities held an annual Scotland versus England international match. In some localities this game was regarded as the most important fixture of the season.

The popularity of a sport is best reflected by statistics. Although provincial association football data was not recorded during this era, it is known that in the city of Calgary soccer expanded from a six-team league at the turn of the century[73] to approximately ten organized leagues consisting of sixty teams by 1914.[74] At Edmonton the Bulletin, in comparing the 1908 and the 1914 seasons of the Edmonton Association Football League, stated:

> Taking the statement of 1908 we find the league was made up of four teams, the total receipts from every source being in the neighborhood of $69. Last season (1914) there were 15 clubs competing, the total receipts from all sources being in the neighborhood of $2,500. These figures speak for themselves.[75]

Senior soccer in Alberta prior to the War was played at a high caliber. Martin Collingwood, a resident of Alberta since 1904, verified this assertion in a 1973 Edmonton Journal article.

> ... when I was managing I had Europeans playing for me. First Division players from England and Scotland.
>
> I had no trouble getting them. They were broke. I met them at the train, got them jobs and they played as amateurs for me. Over in the Old Country pros were making four pounds in England and two pounds in Scotland. This was before the First World War, about 1912.[76]

Collingwood also stated that the quality of association football played in Alberta today (1973) is fifty per cent worse than it was when he was managing.[77] It appeared as if this was a personal assessment.

The War, for obvious reasons, stalled the development of this predominantly British sport. Less than a year after the War had begun ninety per cent of those players who were regular participants of the 1914 Edmonton Association Football League had joined the ranks of the Imperial forces.[78] Later, in March, 1916, the Edmonton Bulletin reported that

> ... practically every footballer in the city has answered the call of his King and country and is now either fighting in the trenches or is in training. Of all the things that soccer football has accomplished, nothing quite compares with this. Nowhere else in the British Empire can any branch of athletics make claim to greater sacrifice.[79]

Between the fall of 1914 and 1918, only in the schools did association football thrive. Nevertheless, by 1919 the sport had regained its pre-War popularity in Alberta.

## Indoor Soccer

Indoor soccer was first played in Alberta at the Calgary Y.M.C.A. in November of 1910.[80] Most probable, the sport was simply an indoor adaptation of association football which was contrived by soccer devotees who wanted to continue playing their favorite game throughout the winter. On the other hand, the Calgary Albertan claimed that indoor soccer was distinct and different from association football and that it had been invented and perfected over a period of years by A.B. Dawson.[81] Dawson was the Physical Director of the Calgary "Y" in 1910 and 1911. There were several major rule differences between indoor soccer and association football.

> On account of the small goal (that is used in indoor soccer), rules had to be introduced which would eliminate to a considerable extent the possibility of roughness in the immediate vicinity of the goal. A 'kick-out' awarded to the defending side each time the ball is caused to cross their goal line, other than through the goal, has proved a distinct advantage in this respect. The feature of using the side walls for caroming the ball has added to the action and science of the game. Another distinct difference from the outdoor game is the absence of any 'on-side' rule except at the 'kick-off'.[82]

In addition, indoor soccer teams consisted of only five players - one goalie, one back, and three forwards.[83]

Irrespective of its origin, indoor soccer rapidly gained favor that first winter at both the Calgary and Edmonton Y.M.C.A.s. The Albertan maintained that Calgary boasted the first indoor soccer league, not only in Canada[84] but in the world,[85] when a seven-team league was formed there in December, 1910. Two months later a four-team Junior Employed Boys' league was organized at Edmonton.[86] However, indoor soccer proved to be a "flash in the pan." In Edmonton the Bulletin made reference to this sport only during the winter of 1910-1911 while in Calgary indoor soccer does not appear to have survived beyond 1913. The demise of indoor soccer at this time was mainly due to the concurrent growth in popularity throughout Canada and the United States of two other indoor winter sports, basketball and volleyball.

## Footnotes

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[3] Ibid., May 14, 1900.

[4] Ibid., August 6, 1900.

[5] Ibid., August 17 and 24, 1900.

[6] Ibid., June 30 and July 4, 1902.

[7] Ibid., September 9, 1903 and Calgary Herald, September 17, 1903.

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[10] Calgary Herald, June 7, 1900 and August 2, 1906.

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[12] Calgary Albertan, June 11, 1906.

[13] Calgary Herald, July 19, 1906.

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[32] Ibid., August 30, 1909.

[33] Ibid., February 28, 1912.

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[35] Ibid., August 17, 1910.

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[37] Edmonton Bulletin, August 25, 1911.

[38] Calgary Albertan, August 28, 1911.

[39] Ibid., February 28, 1912.

[40] Ibid., September 25, 1911.

[41] Edmonton Bulletin, September 14, 1911.

[42] Calgary Albertan, December 12, 1911.

[43] Lethbridge Herald, May 7, 1912.

[44] Ibid., July 15, 18, and 19, 1912.

[45] Ibid., July 23, 1912.

[46] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life, 1700 to the Present, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, p. 339.

[47] Calgary Albertan, August 30, 1913.

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[49] Ibid., July 1 and 2, 1908.

[50] Ibid., September 13, 1909, September 19, 1910, October 2, 1911, and October 21, 1912.

[51] Edmonton Bulletin, October 6, 1913.

[52] Ibid., August 26, 1915.

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[54] Ibid.

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[56] Ibid., October 4, 1915.

[57] Ibid., July 27, 1909.

[58] For example, see Edmonton Bulletin, June 20, 1902.

[59] *Calgary Albertan*, November 23 and 30, 1908 and November 1 and 7, 1910.

[60] *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 4 and 18, 1909 and April 22, 1910.

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[62] *Ibid.*, October 10, 1911.

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[64] *Calgary Albertan*, October 5, 1914.

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[84] Calgary Albertan, December 26, 1910.

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[86] Edmonton Bulletin, February 18, 1911.

Figure 3. The 1908 Calgary Caledonians, Canadian association football champions.

Figure 4. A baseball game, Calgary versus Lethbridge, at Lethbridge on January 27, 1906.

# CHAPTER VI

## BASEBALL

During the first nineteen years of the twentieth century, baseball emerged as one of the foremost sports in the Alberta region. From an almost completely unorganized, amateur sport featuring competition between scratch teams, it grew to become a highly-organized professional sport by 1907. Seven years later baseball was perhaps the most popular summer sport, from both participant and spectator points of view, in the province. The rapid and colorful development of baseball during this era was mainly due to the large influx of American settlers and entrepreneurs. Of the province's 1914 population of 470,000 citizens, 86,000 were immigrants from the United States.[1] Amateur, semi-professional, and professional baseball all played major roles in the unfolding history of this sport. For greater clarity, each caliber of competition will be dealt with separately.

At the turn of the century, most towns, villages, and settled rural communities had organized baseball teams, but distances between these areas of population coupled with poor transportation limited competition to the challenge and tournament levels. Edmonton and vicinity appears to have been an area where baseball captured much public favor for the Edmonton Bulletin reported teams at Morinville, Strathcona, Sturgeon, Battle River, Beaver Creek, Partridge Hill, Spruce Grove, Conjuring Creek, Leduc, and Edmonton.[2] Holidays and picnics were always occasions of which baseball teams and their rooters took full advantage by arranging games with neighboring nines. "These were the days when one might see a four-horse team tied to a fence post with a sign 'Gone to the ball game' on it."[3] In the bigger towns, scratch games, such as those contested between hotels, married and single men, clerks and printers, bankers and accountants, fat men and lean men, Americans and Canadians, and doctors and lawyers were in vogue.

As the population of that part of the Northwest Territories now included in Alberta increased, the number of baseball enthusiasts in this area grew. At the 1902 Calgary Inter-Western Pacific Exhibition, 2,000 spectators turned out to watch Calgary win the final game of a best-of-three series against Cranbrook, B.C., 10-6.[4] Considering the fact that Calgary's population at the time was only 5,000, this fan support indicated tremendous zeal towards the sport. A year later there were enough ball players in Calgary to warrant the formation of a four-club senior league. This league was probably not only the first intra-city league, but the earliest baseball league of any description to be established in the future Alberta.

The initial baseball tournament in this region took place at Calgary as early as 1888.[5] Within fifteen years this form of competition had become common. As a result of widespread community backing, tournament organizers were able to offer large cash prizes to entice teams from far off to compete. Typical of this phenomenon was a Calgary tournament held on July 10 and 11, 1903, which featured teams from Macleod, Red Deer, Golden, B.C., Fernie, B.C., and Calgary. Fernie won the $150 first-place money by defeating Red Deer 7-4 in the final.[6] Those teams that travelled hundreds of miles to attend tourneys usually bolstered their squads with topnotch players from other towns. These cash tournaments and the consequential importation of ballplayers signified the beginning of semi-professional baseball.

After 1902 amateur baseball did not come to the fore again in the Alberta area until 1908. In May of that year, the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) was formed to govern, promote, and protect all kinds of amateur sport in the province.[7] Between 1908 and 1914, even though baseball was not organized provincially by the A.A.A.A., most baseball leagues in Alberta were affiliated indirectly with the association. This was so because many baseball players were registered A.A.A.A. members due to their participation in other sports which were controlled by this amateur union. In these cases, baseball of the purest variety prevailed.

For the six years immediately preceding the War, amateur baseball was played extensively throughout the province. To a great extent, the prolific construction of railways had alleviated the transportation problem, while large-scale immigration had resulted in the birth of new communities which considerably reduced the distances between settlements. New railroad lines, new villages, new baseball teams, and new baseball leagues formed a pattern which was repeated time and time again. Illustrations were plentiful. In the south in 1908, the Southern Alberta Baseball League was composed of Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm and Granum,[8] at the same time that the Crow's Nest Pass Baseball League boasted the towns of Lethbridge, Taber, Macleod, and Pincher Creek.[9] Three years later the Rosebud Baseball League with teams at Olds, Bowden, Didsbury, and Crossfield,[10] the Central Alberta Baseball League embracing clubs from Ponoka, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, and Alix,[11] the Bow Valley Baseball League with teams at Gleichen, Strathmore, Brooks, and Bassano,[12] and a Canadian National Railway league comprising Vegreville, Innisfree, Mannville, Vermilion, and Lloydminster,[13] all prospered.

In 1912 Southern Alberta sported a thriving two-divisional baseball league. The northern division of the Southern Alberta Baseball League included teams from Lethbridge, Taber, Macleod, and Pincher Creek, while Cardston, Warner, Raymond, and Magrath composed the southern division.[14] Another two-divisional baseball league was formed in 1913, this time in the Drumheller-Goose Lake area of the province. Big Valley, Morin, Munson, Hand Hills, Highland, Craigmyle, Victor, and Drumheller were the constituent teams.[15] Due to the fact that amateur baseball was not organized at the provincial level, these two-divisional leagues evince regional development.

Although the Edmonton-Dunvegan-B.C. Railway did not reach Grande Prairie until 1916, baseball was developing apace in the Peace River country prior to the War. By 1911 four teams – Bear Creek, Saskatoon Lake and Beaver Lodge Settlement, on the Grande Prairie, and the Spirit River Settlement – were playing regular challenge matches.[16] A year later Grande Prairie won the Midnight Baseball League finishing ahead of Beaver Lodge, Bear Lake, and Saskatoon Lake.[17] Meanwhile in Alberta's larger centers, intra-city, intra-town, schoolboys', church, Sunday school, Y.M.C.A., mercantile, intermediate, and junior leagues were multitudinous. Calgary, for example, boasted seven amateur baseball leagues and thirty-six teams by mid-June, 1913.[18]

Nevertheless, the development of amateur baseball in Alberta from 1909 through 1914 was retarded to a certain degree by the professional Western Canada Baseball League (W.C.B.L.). Two related problems reflect this retardation, a "local problem" and a "provincial-wide problem". First, a "local problem" faced Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary, Bassano, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat when these centers held professional baseball franchises. The dilemma was that the senior amateur leagues within these W.C.B.L. towns and cities were either forced to fold, or to be reclassified as intermediate. This was due to financial losses caused by poor fan support and the unavailability of suitable playing fields. In the Edmonton Bulletin in 1911 the following request appeared.

> Wanted, Amateur Baseball Grounds – It is certainly to be regretted that the city council has done absolutely nothing as yet to secure a suitable place for local amateur baseball teams to play. The city league games so far have taken place on Diamond Park, but that place is not available when the professionals are at home.19

The teams in the W.C.B.L. had an approximate schedule of fifty home games.

Secondly, the W.C.B.L. was the direct cause of a provincial amateur baseball dilemma. Throughout this era, baseball, unlike other popular sports such as association football, golf, lawn tennis, Canadian rugby, cricket, hockey, curling, and horse and harness racing, did not become organized on a provincial or an interprovincial scale. All levels of amateur baseball in Alberta suffered from this lack of provincial organization. Every league grew independently of other existent leagues. As such, rules, and in some cases the amateur-professional definition, varied from league to league. This "provincial-wide problem" was the result of two factors: most administrative energy and financial support was directed toward professional baseball and the W.C.B.L.; and senior amateur baseball was not a paying proposition. Apparently Alberta's baseball magnates found it more satisfying to lose $5,000 to $10,000 a year on a professional club than they did to lose $1,000 to $2,000 a year on an amateur team.

In 1915, with the W.C.B.L. suspended as a consequence of the War, amateur baseball in Alberta received much more attention from an administrative viewpoint. At a meeting of the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association a baseball committee was appointed.

> This committee was given instructions to arrange for the playoffs, and to draft a set of playing rules to govern all games played for the championship, as well as arranging the draws for the games, and to see that all teams participating in these games are representing bona fide leagues that are affiliated with the amateur union, and are playing only amateur ball players.[20]

This was the only attempt during this era to organize and direct the senior amateur game on a provincial scale. All hopes that an efficient provincial body governing amateur baseball would be established in 1916 were nullified when the A.A.A.A. announced that all senior civilian sports, effective April 1, 1916, and all intermediate civilian sports, effective November 13, 1916, would be banned until the end of the War.[21]

Calgary baseballers, overzealous about seeing senior baseball in their city, did, however, find a way to promote the sport when they organized the Calgary Sportsmen's Patriotic Association (C.S.P.A.) in February of 1916.[22] This association received sanction from the A.A.A.A. to operate a four-team league under very strict conditions.[23] The C.S.P.A. handled the total financial structure of the league, and at season's end the equipment supplied by the C.S.P.A. was given to various Alberta battalions. In addition, all proceeds after the deduction of expenses went for patriotic and military purposes.[24]

The War took its toll on those individuals who championed the cause of the A.A.A.A. By 1918 this amateur sport governing body was lifeless, with the result that the ban on all senior civilian sports in the province became void. In Calgary that year a highly-successful senior amateur baseball league operated as a sequel of the untiring efforts of Lloyd Turner, a prominent Calgary sportsman. To conclude the season, Moose Jaw, the amateur champions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan,[25] and the Calgary All-Stars tangled at Mewata Park in a best-of-five series. Calgary won the series and claimed the amateur baseball championship of Western Canada.[26] At the first game,

> ... it was estimated that there were 5,000 people present. Police were called to keep the people off the diamond, and a home run was impossible because the crowd was so dense that they circled the diamond, and a hit which would have meant a home run in an ordinary game was counted as a two-bagger last night.[27]

This reflected the continuing ebullience of Calgary's baseball fraternity.

Like amateur baseball, the semi-professional game was marked by fluctuations in participation during the 1900-1918 era. It originally came into prominence in 1903 at which time competition between established teams in Alberta was intense. Rivalry was spurred by the incentive of large cash tournaments, extensive betting, and challenge games for purses in the $100 range. This resulted in the importation of batteries and, to a lesser degree, infielders and outfielders from Eastern Canada and the United States. The following citation typifies the baseball environment of the early 1900s.

> S. Cobean arrived from Toronto on Monday morning and has accepted a position as clerk in the Macleod Hotel. Sammy will be quite an addition to the baseball team. He is a "southpaw" and made a record for himself with the Hillsburg team last year.[28]

Cobean was a characteristic semi-pro baseball player in that he engaged in the sport for profit, but not as a full-time occupation. Besides receiving his share of the Macleod club's winnings during the year, Cobean was presented at the end of the season with a purse containing over $80 in recognition of his services to the team.[29]

Semi-professional baseball thrived in the Alberta area for five years, from 1903 through 1907. During this period most teams claimed amateur status even though they were technically semi-professional. That is, they included at least one semi-professional player on their roster. In 1904 the Calgary nine, after winning the Alberta Baseball League, toured Saskatchewan and Manitoba. They played ten games, won seven, and captured the Northwest Territories championship (unofficial) when they defeated Brandon, Man., two games to one in a best-of-three series.[30]

The Calgary Brewing and Malting Company challenge cup, which carried with it the title, Alberta championship team, was the most prestigious and the most sought-after trophy in Alberta in 1905, 1906, and 1907. This trophy, donated in the fall of 1904, was originally handed to the Calgary club since they were the recognized champions of Alberta at that time.[31] The rules governing the "Brewery Trophy" apparently lacked a viable residence clause for its trustees were kept busy throughout the summer of 1905 attempting to resolve the many protests. The following is an accurate illustration of the situation.

> Just how many Calgary players will be in the Brewery Cup games tomorrow and Saturday at Banff will depend on how the money comes. As to what teams they will be on will depend on the bidding. Representatives of both the Banff and Canmore teams are after men.[32]

Following the 1905 fiasco, the rules of the trophy were amended. The major alteration was a provision that no player would be eligible for a game if he had not been a resident for thirty days of the town which he was to represent.[33] Notwithstanding the fact that the "Brewery

Trophy", when donated, was to have been emblematic of the Alberta amateur baseball championship, it was, from its inception, emblematic of the Alberta semi-professional baseball championship.

During the reign of semi-professionalism, baseball fever often lead to alleged underhanded dealings and in 1905 produced a scandal which threatened the integrity of the sport. Because of its great popularity, baseball was seen as a medium through which one community could assert its supremacy over a neighboring community. Victory was often sought at any and all costs. Scandal appeared to have played a part in the August 10-12, 1905, Calgary tournament in which participating teams hailed from Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, Innisfail, Calgary, Raymond, and Fernie, B.C.[34] When Fernie won the final game 9-8 over Calgary, and with it the $500 first-place prize money, various rumors immediately spread over an alleged fix. The Calgary Herald best described the accusations.

> The well-defined rumors of crookedness in the closing game of the ball tournament between Fernie and Calgary have resulted in a very general demand for an investigation. The Herald has received a number of letters making very serious charges. That a large sum of money passed to certain individuals who bet on Fernie, is certain. The assertion is freely made by those who pretend to know that they can prove that men connected with the promotion of the tournament, and the employment of the umpire, won large sums on the defeat of the home team. Much of the criticism is based upon the use of a man as umpire

> who was arrested during the late gambling scandal as the man who nominally held the privilege for operating gambling games on the Exhibition grounds.[35]

Unfortunately there was no baseball commission in 1905 to order an investigation into the above turmoil, and therefore this heated controversy gradually subsided without an inquiry.

There were numerous ballplayers in the Alberta area between 1903 and 1907 that can be labelled "non-resident semi-professionals". They were non-resident in two aspects. Firstly, like S. Cobean of the 1903 Macleod club, they were imports; that is, they did not make Alberta their home in the off-season. Secondly, unlike Cobean, when in this territory during the baseball season they were transient, plying their trade with the team that offered them the most money. As such, these players were often members of the Calgary, Canmore, Banff, Wetaskiwin, Edmonton, and perhaps other teams in the same season. At one point, following Wetaskiwin's 8-0 victory over Edmonton for a $100 purse on Inauguration Day in Edmonton, the Bulletin remarked "The 'Moose'[36] who plays with Fernie, Calgary, Banff or Wetaskiwin, as the case may be, is a star, and is perhaps the best player who ever appeared here."[37] Most notable of the "non-resident semi-professionals" were Whitney, Baxter, and Miller of Calgary and Stultz and Billy Pitman of Wetaskiwin. The baseball environment in which "non-resident semi-professionals" successfully toiled was one of rabid fan support, frequent cash tournaments, intense rivalries, heavy betting, and a prestigious, provincial challenge trophy.

The prominence of semi-professional baseball was noticeably diminished by the inauguration of the Western Canada Baseball League in 1907 and by the formation of the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association in May, 1908. The authority of the A.A.A.A. was restricted to registered individuals, teams, and leagues. Consequently between 1908 and 1918 there were a few leagues, whose players were not A.A.A.A. members, that continued to play the semi-pro game. The Southern Alberta Baseball League of 1910 was a semi-professional association and embraced the towns of Stavely, Granum, Claresholm, and High River.

> Towns like Stavely and Granum were supporting teams which towns in Ontario ten, yes twenty times as large, could not support. It came too high. It was costing too much. First Stavely dropped out and then Claresholm.[38]

Other semi-professional leagues were more successful.

In 1917 and 1918, as the administrative control of the A.A.A.A. rapidly dwindled, semi-professional baseball came to the forefront once again. Only in Edmonton did baseballers faithfully respect the 1916 ruling of the A.A.A.A. regarding the ban on all senior civilian sports. In other areas of the province, most notably in the south, baseball was dominated by semi-professional cash tournaments. At Medicine Hat in 1917 a tourney offering $1,000 in prize money was held in conjunction with the Medicine Hat Stampede. Fifteen teams including Prussia, Champion, Forty Mile, Sceptre, Antelope Lake, Orion, Stavely, Jenner, Taber, Raymond, Burdette, Lomond, Medicine Hat High School, Medicine Hat Monarchs, and Medicine Hat Elks competed for the $500 first-place purse. Stavely emerged victorious.[39] Later in the year at Calgary, the C.S.P.A. put up $1,000 in prize money and sponsored a seven-team tournament.[40] This competition was not sanctioned by the A.A.A.A. and it therefore appears as if the C.S.P.A. was flaunting the authority of the amateur union. After Vulcan had defeated Champion 4-2 to win the $500 first-place cash award, the two teams agreed upon a three-game series for a $1,000 side bet and the championship of Alberta (unofficial).[41] Champion defeated Vulcan twice, 6-4 and 7-2, to win both the title and the money.[42]

A year later Vulcan captured the eight-team Medicine Hat Stampede tournament. Pitching twenty consecutive scoreless innings over three games, Williford starred for the Vulcan nine.[43] Between 1916 and 1918, the Stavely-Champion-Vulcan area of Southern Alberta was clearly a hotbed of semi-professionalism. The major cash tournaments at Medicine Hat and Calgary and lesser cash tourneys elsewhere were invariably supported by sizable crowds. This not only points out the popularity of the sport, but also indicates that baseball fans were hungry for a high-quality brand of competition following the demise of the W.C.B.L.

Professional baseball was the first professional team sport played in Alberta. It came into existence in 1906 as a result of the tremendous interest that the semi-professional game had generated. That first year, professional clubs were located in Edmonton, Wetaskiwin, and Calgary. For the most part these teams were backed financially by businessmen, who felt that professional ball was a good investment since it was an excellent advertising means for their cities.[44] Two touring professional teams, the Seattle Anacortes and the Winnipeg Maroons, visited Alberta in 1906 and played series of games against Alberta's "Big Three". "Deacon" White, who first came to the province with the Anacortes, liked what he saw, stayed, and became one of Edmonton's premier sports figures, gave this opinion following the Anacortes' tour:

> Baseball in the province of Alberta is no longer in the experimental stage, it is a living, growing, wonderful success. The crowds that turn out for the game in Edmonton and Calgary would put to shame many a team in class B baseball.[45]

Throughout the winter of 1906-1907 baseball received as much ink in the Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat newspapers as did ice hockey. The reason for this was the exciting news and the subsequent developments of the newly-formed Western Canada Baseball League, which was composed of the aforementioned Alberta centers. With their chequebooks open, Alberta's pioneer baseball magnates waited patiently for the May 20, 1907 opening date, while their teams trained in far-off places. The Calgary club opened training in Massachusetts;[46] the Edmonton club in Idaho;[47] the Lethbridge club in Wisconsin;[48] and the Medicine Hat club in Ohio.[49] A salary limit was set at $1,200 per team per month,[50] and each team was scheduled to play an approximate ninety-three-game schedule.[51] The league was a success, being the first professional baseball circuit in Canada to complete an entire schedule and season without a single change in its component clubs or cities, or change in its schedule.[52] It was designated as class "D" by the National Association of Baseball Leagues of the U.S.A.

The extravagance of the 1907 season caused the W.C.B.L. to suspend operations in 1908, but in 1909 the league was revived and expanded when Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, and Moose Jaw joined the four original Alberta clubs to form an eight-team circuit. The Lethbridge Baseball Club Limited, a joint stock company, was organized to finance that city's entry. One thousand shares at $10 each were to be sold.[53] The salary limit of the enlarged W.C.B.L. was upped to $1,300 and gate receipts were to be divided between playing clubs giving each fifty per cent, the grandstand going to the home team.[54] Each Alberta club was scheduled to play 107 games.[55] The Edmonton Bulletin remarked:

> By the new schedule the Edmonton team will travel approximately 4,500 miles during the season. At the present time the railroads

> offer a flat rate of 2 cents per mile but an effort is being made to secure a 1½ cent rate. This means that the railway fare of the team during the season alone will cost between $1,500 and $2,000.[56]

Following the 1909 season, all was not well with the W.C.B.L. Large travelling expenditures had proven to be a major handicap and most of the clubs had concluded the year with a balance on the red side of the ledger. Calgary was reported to have made a small surplus, while all other clubs suffered losses of anywhere from $1,000 to $3,500.[57]

In an attempt to minimize these financial setbacks the W.C.B.L. schedule in 1910 gave the larger cities the majority of home games. By mid-season that year, the Calgary entry under Bill Carney had moved into such a wide lead that the league owners decided to split the schedule in two, the winners of each series to play off for the championship in the fall. This strategic move, which was adopted to retain fan interest, proved to be a bonanza throughout most of the second series. Most of the clubs, knowing what to expect from the Calgary aggregation, violated the $1,500 salary limit,[58] imported better players, and the fans were treated to the best baseball ever seen in Alberta up to that time.[59] Edmonton won the second series series by .005 percentage points over Calgary,[60] but a playoff between the two clubs did not occur. Apparently the conditions which were to govern the post-season playoff had not been clearly defined and before the situation could be rectified the teams had disbanded for the year.

A six-team W.C.B.L. circuit operated in 1911, Lethbridge and Saskatoon[61] having been dropped from the eight-team 1910 league. But the professional league did not prosper. Winnipeg and Brandon withdrew their franchises in the closing weeks of the season,[62] and many disputes simmered in regard to violations of the salary limit. The principal reason why the Western Canada Baseball League did not function smoothly was that the various club owners attempted to discipline the league themselves, rather than give the league's president and his staff the control which was required to ensure a smooth operation. As a result, many embroilments arose which damaged the image of the league.

Financial failure, mainly due to exorbitant salaries and the high costs of travel associated with the long distances between league cities, reduced the W.C.B.L. to four Alberta teams in 1912. Bassano and Red Deer joined the only two original franchises still operating, Calgary and Edmonton.[63] Monetary losses, however, continued to plague the league. The Edmonton Bulletin reported that the Edmonton professional franchise had lost approximately $39,000 since 1908.[64] And by the middle of August the Bassano entry had to dismantle their grandstand and the fence around their park, the purpose being to sell the lumber, and thereby raise sufficient funds to pay their players overdue salaries.[65] Calgary won the league championship when they defeated Red Deer four games to two in the best-of-seven final series.[66]

Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Regina, and Saskatoon composed the professional W.C.B.L. in 1913. The highlight of the season, which resulted in the W.C.B.L.'s annual crisis, occurred when President Gray of Edmonton, in rapid succession, suspended managers Hurley, Whisman, and Hulen of Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Regina respectively.[67] These suspensions were due to violations of the roster limit of twelve and violations of the salary limit, which, as in previous years, remained at $1,500 per team per month. Although the infractions were rectified and the three suspended managers were reinstated, this was the first time a W.C.B.L. president had exerted his power and enforced the constitution of the league.

By 1914 the W.C.B.L. was "beginning to get down to a safe and sane basis."[68] Edmonton, Moose Jaw, and Saskatoon actually made money in 1913. The club owners of the six 1913 franchises made the league more permanent when they drew up an agreement, each posting a $1,000 guarantee that they would stick together for five years. The salary limit was raised to $1,800 per month and James Fleming of Medicine Hat was appointed president at a salary of $1,500 per year.[69] The W.C.B.L. made application to the National Association of Baseball Leagues for a class "C" rating; however, they were denied this request and remained a class "D" league.[70]

An encouraging throng of fans, 20,000 strong, lined the streets of downtown Edmonton for the Edmonton club's 1914 opening day parade. Later, 5,000 of these supporters watched Saskatoon defeat Edmonton 5-3 in the season "lid-lifter."[71] Unfortunately, the War cut short a promising season and terminated the Western Canada Baseball League for the rest of this era. On February 1, 1915, all W.C.B.L. players, excluding those who had been loaned or sold to other National Association-affiliated teams, became free agents.[72]

In the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918, the prime developers of the great American sport were the Y.M.C.A.s, the churches, and the schools. The influence of the Y.M.C.A.s and the churches was limited to the large urban centers. Although Y.M.C.A. leagues were not frequently formed, this institution nevertheless played a prominent role. It supplied facilities and the necessary technical knowledge in the organization and supervision of many school, junior, and church leagues.

One of the first press accounts of the involvement between the Christian church and baseball was in a 1905 Edmonton Bulletin and stated that "The ball game between the Methodist and the Baptist church teams last evening resulted in a tie, 13 all."[73] Six years later the progressive trend of churches away from nineteenth century puritanism was reflected in both Edmonton and Calgary. In the capital a five-team Church Baseball League and a five-team Sunday School Baseball League,[74] and in Calgary a four-team Church Baseball League and a four-team Sunday School Baseball League[75] were all reported flourishing. To further illustrate the liberalized philosophy of the church, a seventeen-team Sunday School Baseball League operated successfully in Edmonton in the summer of 1917 as a result of cooperation between the Y.M.C.A. and various churches.[76]

The part played by the schools in fostering baseball cannot be exaggerated. According to primary source material, baseball was, throughout this era, one of the most popular participant sports on the playgrounds of Alberta's schools. In rural schools enthusiasm for the sport is best manifested by the following quotation.

> Not all rural schools were fortunate to have a ball and bat, so the children made their own. They wound yarn, or long strips of denim material, tightly around some solid object like a round stone and securely stitched the covering together with strong cord. These handmade balls were surprisingly hard and firm. The bat was a roughly hewn length of hardwood or even a willow fence post. Everyone was happy as long as it bore a faint resemblance to the real thing.[77]

Here competition was usually between scratch teams although inter-school contests with real balls and bats did take place. Meanwhile in the urban schools, baseball became fairly sophisticated with well-established leagues. At Calgary in 1914 there were thirty-three teams competing in the Public Schools' Baseball League.[78] In reference to this league the Albertan stated that

> Calgary has the reputation of having the best organized boys' athletics in Canada, and this year (1914) they reached what the big American

> cities have been striving so hard for: the ideal condition where self-government in games is worked out on a practical basis, where individual prizes are conspicuous by their absence, and where high school students render leadership to the public school boys.[79]

By 1912 in the public schools, the rules of baseball were often being modified to make the game more interesting and more competitive for the young boys. The modifications adopted by the 1912 Calgary public schools' league included the use of the indoor baseball and bat, the placing of the bases thirty-five feet apart with the pitcher's box thirty feet from home plate, and the stipulation that the ball had to be delivered to the batter by an underhand throw.[80] Similar rule changes also governed the Edmonton Public Schools' Girls' Baseball League in 1916,[81] 1917, and 1918.[82] The aforementioned modifications and others indicate that the game played was a forerunner to softball.

In conclusion then, baseball enjoyed a very successful and colorful era in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918. This was due to the large immigration of Americans into this region and promotion of the sport by such agencies as the Y.M.C.A., the church, and the school. The War, coupled with the 1916 A.A.A.A. rulings which prohibited participation in intermediate and senior civilian sports, crippled intermediate and senior baseball; but the popularity of the sport was not to be denied. Schoolboys', junior, inter-battalion, and semi-professional leagues prospered throughout the War years. Inter-battalion baseball was particularly distinguishable in 1916, for in that year a seven-team league operated in Edmonton[83] while at Sarcee Camp, near Calgary, twelve battalions constituted the Sarcee Camp Baseball League.[84]

## Indoor Baseball

By 1900 indoor baseball was being played in Eastern Canada and the United States.[85] It is thought that this sport was devised by baseball players who wanted to continue action throughout the winter months. The first indoor baseball game to be played in Alberta occurred in November, 1910, at Sherman's Rink in Calgary where "Moose" Baxter's "Mooses" opposed Chandler's "Giants".[86] Each team consisted of nine men although only two outfielders were employed. The third outfielder played on the infield where there were two shortstops, a right and a left. In place of the regular baseball and bat, a much larger ball and a smaller bat were utilized. At the same time, the bases were much closer together than they were in the outdoor game and all pitching was done underhand.[87]

In Alberta from 1911 to 1918, indoor baseball was promoted by the schools, the Y.M.C.A., and during the War, by the military. In January of 1913 the Lethbridge Herald reported a four-team school and a four-team Y.M.C.A. indoor baseball league in that city,[88] while in October of 1913 similar leagues were organized at Edmonton.[89] A year later an indoor baseball tournament sponsored by the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. saw local teams entered from Strathcona High School, the Separate High School, Alberta College, McTavish, the Technical School, and Victoria High School.[90] It seems only fitting that the military should foster this sport during the War since they occupied all the community-owned indoor arenas in the province. At Edmonton on January 16, 1917, the Bulletin reported that

> The Indoor Baseball League of the 218th, Irish Guards, Batt. opened last night before a big crowd of spectators, with a hard fought game between the Headquarters team and the team from the "C" Company.[91]

Six teams competed in this 218th Battalion league.[92]

Nonetheless, indoor baseball was not a popular indoor winter sport in Alberta. "The outdoor baseball athletes were content to devote the winter to talking about the season that had just passed and to making plans for another campaign the following spring."[93] Moreover, the sport succumbed to the rising participant popularity of two other indoor winter sports, basketball and volleyball.

## Softball

Most sports historians, including W.P. Bull,[94] state that softball was an outdoor adaptation of indoor baseball. But it may be that these two sports were introduced into Alberta in reverse order. Indoor baseball was first played in 1910 while, according to a newspaper clipping from the Calgary Albertan of May 15, 1946, softball was played as early as 1908.[95] In fact, this article argues that Calgary can legitimately lay claim to being the birthplace of softball. It states that the game was first played by Canadian soldiers who served in the Boer War. Without proper baseball equipment, they used makeshift bats and balls on a small diamond. The article goes on to say that softball was introduced to Calgarians sometime between 1902, the end of the Boer War, and 1908, when regular school leagues were in operation. Softball was adopted by Calgary school athletic authorities because they were faced with an acute lack of playing space.[96]

Calgary's affirmation as the birthplace of softball is not authentic for Menke states that softball was played at Minneapolis in 1895.[97] In addition, the 1908 date is questionable. No reference was found in the Calgary newspapers to a form of softball being played in that city's schools until 1912.

Following a highly-successful Public Schools' Hockey League, the spring of 1912 confronted those interested in boys' athletics in Calgary with the question of what game the youngsters should play during the summer.

> The problem was to decide on a game that would be beneficial for the boys to play, could be played by boys of different ages, and on the school grounds, would be economical in operation, and most particular of all, one that the boys would take to. To secure a game that would fulfill all these requirements kept the boosters awake at night, until the experience of the Eastern cities was looked up, and

> eventually, as a result of these investigations, it was decided that Playground Baseball was the ideal game,....[98]

Twenty-three teams participated in the 1912 Calgary Public Schools' Playground Baseball League.[99] The modifications adopted by this league included the use of the indoor baseball and bat, the placing of the bases thirty-five feet apart with the pitcher's box thirty feet from home plate, and the stipulations that the ball had to be delivered to the batter by an underhand throw,[100] and that a base runner could not leave a base until the ball had left the pitcher's hand.[101] Otherwise professional baseball rules governed. The league, a resounding success, was administered jointly by Jack Sharpe, Boys' Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., and the principals of the schools involved.[102] Obviously the sport played by the Calgary Public Schools' Playground Baseball League in 1912 was a precursor of softball.

From 1912 until the end of this era, the Calgary Public Schools and the Calgary Y.M.C.A. continued to promote and develop softball, which was also referred to as baseball, playground baseball, and indoor ball, among the schoolboys. By 1918 the Public Schools' baseball schedule embraced thirty-six teams in four different weight divisions.[103] The 1916 rules were a marked improvement over those used in 1912. The bases were now sixty feet apart and the pitcher's box was thirty-five feet from home plate.[104]

Although there is little doubt that a rudimentary form of softball was first played in Alberta at Calgary, Edmonton was the first center to initiate this game among the fair sex. Originating in the spring of 1916,[105] the Edmonton Public Schools' Girls' Baseball League had expanded to thirteen teams by 1918.[106] Baseball rule alterations in this girls' league included the use of a fourteen-inch indoor baseball, the placement of bases fifty feet apart, and the provision that all pitchers deliver the ball from a distance of thirty-five feet.[107]

Softball was a fledgling, unrefined sport in Alberta during this era. An outdoor adaptation of indoor baseball was established in the Calgary Public Schools' boys' athletic program by 1912, but it may have been played therein as early as 1908. This primary form of softball was played almost exclusively by schoolboys and schoolgirls.

## Footnotes

[1] James G. MacGregor, A History of Alberta, Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972, p. 206.

[2] Edmonton Bulletin, April 20, May 11 and 21, July 6 and 27, August 3, and September 3 and 21, 1900.

[3] Bertha M. Speers (compiler), A Cameo of the West, Namao, Alberta: Namao U.C.W. and Namao F.U.A. Local No. 539, ca. 1969, p. 43.

[4] Calgary Herald, September 4, 1902.

[5] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 15.

[6] Calgary Herald, July 16, 1903. Also, see Macleod Gazette, August 21, 1903.

[7] Edmonton Bulletin, May 18, 1908.

[8] Calgary Albertan, April 18, 1908.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid., June 3, 1911.

[11] Ibid., June 5 and July 17, 1911.

[12] Ibid., June 6, 1911.

[13] Charles M. Finlay (editor), History of Mannville and District, Mannville, Alberta: Mannville Old Timers' Association, 1961, p. 46.

[14] Lethbridge Herald, May 4 and July 20, 1912.

[15] Munson Women's Institute, Munson and District, Munson, Alberta: Munson Centennial Book Committee, 1967, p. 143.

[16] Edmonton Bulletin, July 29, 1911.

[17] Ibid., August 6, 1912. Also, see Isabel M. Campbell, Grande Prairie: Capital of the Peace, n.p., 1968, p. 41.

[18] Calgary News-Telegram, June 16, 1913. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, April 11, 1913.

[19] Edmonton Bulletin, June 11, 1911.

[20] Calgary Albertan, August 11, 1915.

[21] Ibid., March 25 and 28, 1916 and Edmonton Bulletin, November 14, 1916.

[22] Calgary Albertan, February 13, 1916.

[23] Ibid., April 28, 1917.

[24] Ibid., April 15, 1916.

[25] Calgary Canadian, September 13, 1918.

[26] Ibid., September 16, 1918.

[27] Ibid., September 13, 1918.

[28] Macleod Gazette, July 3, 1903.

[29] Ibid., September 11, 1903.

[30] Calgary Herald, August 4 and 11, 1904.

[31] Calgary Albertan, July 30, 1906.

[32] Calgary Herald, September 14, 1905. Also, see Calgary Herald, October 5, 1905 and Edmonton Bulletin, September 12, 1905.

[33] Calgary Herald, July 12, 1906.

[34] Ibid., August 10, 1905.

[35] Ibid., August 17, 1905.

[36] It is probable that the "Moose" was John (Moose) Baxter, who played briefly with the St. Louis Cardinals of the National League prior to 1910 and who was a brother of Andy Baxter, a long-time Calgary baseball star and resident. (Elsie C. Morrison and P.N.R. Morrison, The Story of Calgary. A Souvenir of Calgary's Seventy-fifth Anniversary, Calgary: Calgary Publishing Company, 1950, p. 146.)

[37] Edmonton Bulletin, September 5, 1905.

[38] Calgary Albertan, June 20, 1910.

[39] Medicine Hat Daily News, July 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 16, 1917.

[40] Calgary Albertan, August 20, 1917.

[41] Ibid., August 27, 1917.

[42] Ibid., August 29 and 30, 1917.

[43] Medicine Hat Daily News, July 18, 19, 20, and 22, 1918.

[44] Edmonton Bulletin, June 11 and 16, 1906 and Calgary Herald, May 10, 1906.

[45] Edmonton Bulletin, August 21, 1906.

[46] Calgary Albertan, April 27, 1907.

[47] Edmonton Bulletin, April 29, 1907.

[48] Calgary Albertan, April 27, 1907.

[49] Ibid., April 17, 1907.

[50] Edmonton Bulletin, October 16, 1906.

[51] Ibid., May 11, 1907.

[52] Ibid., October 15, 1907.

[53] Lethbridge Herald, March 12, 1909.

[54] Edmonton Bulletin, March 3, 1909.

[55] Ibid., April 14, 1909.

[56] Ibid., April 17, 1909.

[57] Ibid., September 15, 1909.

[58] Ibid., June 25, 1910.

[59] Calgary Albertan, February 28, 1912.

[60] Edmonton Bulletin, September 2, 1910.

[61] Saskatoon adopted the Medicine Hat club in mid-July, 1910, when the franchise in the Alberta city was forced to fold under financial pressure.

[62] Calgary Albertan, February 28, 1912.

[63] Edmonton Bulletin, April 18, 1912.

[64] Ibid., July 16, 1912.

[65] Ibid., August 23, 1912.

[66] Ibid., September 16, 1912.

[67] Ibid., June 18, 20, and 21, 1913.

[68] Morning Albertan. The 100,000 Manufacturing, Building and Wholesale Book Edition, Calgary: Produced by C.A. Violette, 1914, p. 165.

[69] Ibid.

[70] Edmonton Bulletin, November 4 and December 4, 1913.

[71] Ibid., May 5, 1914.

[72] Calgary Albertan, February 1, 1915.

[73] Edmonton Bulletin, July 26, 1905.

[74] Ibid., May 12, May 23, and June 7, 1911.

[75] Calgary Albertan, May 6 and June 22, 1911.

[76] Edmonton Bulletin, May 5, 1917.

[77] John C. Charyk, "Recesses and Special Occasions," Pulse of the Community, Volume II of The Little White Schoolhouse, Saskatoon: Prairie Book Service, The Western Producer, 1970, pp. 3-4.

[78] Calgary Albertan, June 3, 1914.

[79] Ibid., June 25, 1914.

[80] Ibid., May 6, 1912.

[81] Edmonton Bulletin, May 28, 1918.

[82] Ibid., May 25, 1918.

[83] Ibid., May 6, 1916.

[84] Calgary Albertan, July 10 and 26, 1916.

[85] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, p. 58.

[86] Calgary Albertan, November 14, 1910.

[87] Ibid.

[88] Lethbridge Herald, January 2, 1913.

[89] Edmonton Bulletin, October 8 and 25, 1913. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, October 19, 1911.

[90] Ibid., December 19, 1914.

[91] Ibid., January 16, 1917.

[92] Ibid., February 5, 1917.

[93] Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 823.

[94] Wm. Perkins Bull, From Rattlesnake Hunt to Hockey, Toronto: The Perkins Bull Foundation, George J. McLeod, Ltd., 1935, p. 348.

[95] "Calgary Played Fastball As Early as Year 1908," Calgary Albertan, May 15, 1946, Provenance: Calgary - Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[96] Ibid.

[97] Menke, loc. cit.

[98] Calgary Albertan, May 6, 1912.

[99] Ibid., February 28, 1913.

[100] Ibid., May 6, 1912.

[101] Ibid., May 31, 1912.

[102] Ibid., May 6, 1912.

[103] Ibid., April 9, 1918.

[104] Ibid., May 6, 1916.

[105] Edmonton Bulletin, May 28, 1918.

[106] Ibid., May 25, 1918.

[107] Ibid.

# CHAPTER VII

# BASKETBALL

Basketball is one of the few sports treated in this study that did not evolve from an earlier, informal, spontaneous activity. To the contrary, it was carefully worked out in 1891 by Dr. James Naismith, an instructor at the International Y.M.C.A. Training School at Springfield, Massachusetts.[1] The sport originated after Y.M.C.A. leaders throughout the U.S.A. realized that declining gymnasium memberships were the result of boring, noncompetitive gymnasium activities such as military drill, weight lifting, Indian club twirling, pyramid building, and formal calisthenics.[2]

A year after its invention, basketball was brought to Canada[3] via churches, clubs, schools, and Y.M.C.A.s, and its popularity quickly spread throughout the Dominion. In the area which was later to be Alberta, one of the earliest newspaper references to the sport appeared in a 1902 Calgary Herald.

> A meeting was held at Anthracite on the 4th inst. and a Basket Ball club organized ... An attempt will be made to organize a three-cornered league between Banff, Anthracite and Canmore and if successful an exciting struggle for supremacy is anticipated.[4]

But since no successive information could be found, it is highly unlikely that this league was ever formed.

Early in the present century, the Mormon church played a major role in introducing basketball into the extreme southwestern region of the future province. Here it became an established sport several years before it was entrenched in more-northerly districts. In 1903 the first high school basketball in the Alberta area was played at Raymond, the Mormon community founded by Mr. Ray Knight and family. A year later Raymond challenged Stirling High School in the first inter-school basketball game.[5] Meanwhile at the 1904 Lethbridge Exhibition and Race Meet, basketball matches between Cardston and Magrath "were viewed with interest by a large gathering of people, to many of whom the game was entirely new ...."[6]

Basketball was adopted by the women early in its history. As early as 1904 the ladies' team from Cardston claimed the Alberta championship after they triumphed over clubs from Lethbridge, Magrath, and Raymond.[7] The Cardston ladies, like most ladies' teams at this time, were forced to play on outdoor courts since indoor facilities were lacking. Nevertheless, enthusiasm for the women's game often ran high and when the Lethbridge High School girls defeated the Cardston girls 15-0 in 1905, Miss Lizzie Kinniburgh, who did most of the scoring for Lethbridge, "was promptly shouldered and carried from the grounds amid the loud cheering of a large crowd of spectators."[8]

In areas outside the Mormon localities of Southern Alberta, the Y.M.C.A.s and the schools were the premier promoters of the sport. The "Y"s were especially active in fostering the development of basketball inasmuch as it was a Y.M.C.A.-invented game. At the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. in November, 1908, less than a year after its opening, a class "A" senior league, a class "B" senior league, and a three-sectional junior league had all been organized. These three leagues encompassed a total of nineteen teams.[9]

Because school gymnasia were rare at this time, boys' and men's teams from institutes of learning in Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge frequently used the facilities of their local Y.M.C.A.s. These teams either joined previously-formed "Y" leagues or, if it was viable, they formed interscholastic leagues. For instance, at Calgary in 1911, Western Canada College and Calgary Collegiate Institute were component clubs in the four-team Y.M.C.A. Intermediate Basketball League.[10] A year later at Edmonton, a junior schoolboys' league was one of two junior leagues operating at the Y.M.C.A. in that city.[11] In addition, the University of Alberta played in a six-team senior Y.M.C.A. league, while an eight-team intermediate Y.M.C.A. league included the Theologians of Alberta College, the Law Students, Alberta College Arts, and the University of Alberta Seconds.[12]

As basketball realized increased exposure, intercenter challenge matches gained public favor. For eight seasons, from the winter of 1908-1909 to the winter of

1915-1916, the Calgary and Edmonton Y.M.C.A. all-star teams competed annually for the title of Alberta champions (unofficial). Also, the Y.M.C.A. intermediate league victors in these two cities played off for two seasons, 1913-1914[13] and 1914-1915,[14] for the Alberta intermediate championship (unofficial). These two titles were certainly misnomers since the only two Alberta centers represented were Calgary and Edmonton.

The only attempt during the period under examination to systematize basketball on a provincial scale occurred in January of 1916, when the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) divided Alberta into two districts with the winners of each district to play off for the provincial championship.[15] That spring, for the fifth consecutive year,[16] the Calgary "Y" defeated the Edmonton "Y" in a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series to claim Alberta basketball supremacy.[17] Later in 1916 all senior and intermediate civilian sports under A.A.A.A. auspices were banned due to the War.[18] In November, 1917, the A.A.A.A. resurrected intermediate civilian sports as a result of the Military Service Act which settled the liability for service of each citizen and placed the draft age at twenty years. Shortly after this decision was made, Alberta's amateur athletes revived senior sports when it became apparent that the A.A.A.A. had lost its administrative power, due to the fact that most of the individuals who championed the cause of this amateur sports body had joined the armed forces. Senior basketball regained its status that winter (1917-1918). The month of December saw the Edmonton All-Stars touring Southern Alberta where they played three games and won them all. They defeated Calgary 43-36,[19] Lethbridge 55-40, and Raymond 38-30.[20] The Edmonton Bulletin reported that at Raymond

> the city basket tossers were ... hampered by the narrow floor, and, to add to their discomfiture, eager side-line fans would rush over the line at critical points in the play, making it impossible for the local boys to effect combination.[21]

Three months later this Edmonton aggregation captured the Alberta championship when they downed Calgary by thirty points in a two-game series,[22] and Lethbridge 52-28 at Edmonton in the title game. J. Crozier, K. Crozier, G. Parney, C. English, and N. Stevens starred in the Edmonton line-up.[23]

Except in the far southwestern corner of the province, basketball during this era did not generate enough interest to justify interprovincial or international trips by Alberta clubs. However the Brandon, Manitoba, and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Y.M.C.A. teams did tour Alberta. On December 30, 1912, Edmonton Y.M.C.A. defeated Brandon 36-31[24] while two nights later in Calgary the visiting squad upended the local "Y" 40-33.[25] The following year Moose Jaw recorded two wins and one loss on their Alberta swing. In succession they defeated the Lethbridge Y.M.C.A. 43-25,[26] lost to the Calgary "Y" seniors 39-35,[27] and then upset the Edmonton "Y" all-star quintette 42-37.[28] In the

Cardston-Raymond-Lethbridge area, the north-south alignment was reflected when such towns as Raymond, Stirling, and Magrath sent teams south of the 49th parallel, via the Lethbridge-Great Falls railway, to compete internationally against teams from the states of Montana and Utah.[29]

As previously asserted, the schools played a large part in ameliorating the status of basketball. For the most part it was the schoolgirls and not the schoolboys that fostered the sport. In fact, the overwhelming enthusiasm displayed by schoolgirls toward basketball was, by far, the most significant feature in its development during these two decades. Between approximately 1906, when basketball had been introduced in the province's cities and in many of its towns, and 1918, schoolgirls participated in the game whenever and wherever possible. The earliest setting for the girls' game was the annual school sports' or field days. Since it was not customary for them to engage in athletics (track and field events), the schoolgirls amused themselves by playing the Naismith-invented game. For example, at the 1906 Strathcona high school and public school sports' day a game of basketball was scheduled between the girls of standards five and six.[30] This trend continued throughout this period. At the first field day of the Calgary public schools in October, 1909, the Calgary Albertan stated:

> In the series of basketball games for girls, that between the High school and Normal was the most stubbornly fought. Not only these girls

Figure 5. Calgary Normal School ladies' basketball team, 1906.

> but the public school girls played very good basketball. They tore up the grounds until they could not hardly be seen for the dust, and the officials of the game and the spectators were covered with a beautiful gray.[31]

Three and a half years later when the first provincial high school athletic meet was held at Olds, athletic competitions were restricted to the schoolboys; nevertheless, several schoolgirls' basketball teams attended and competed in a tournament which was governed by Spaldings Official Basketball Rules for Women.[32]

Between rural and urban Alberta the development of schoolgirls' basketball varied greatly. In the rural school systems the lack of trained instructors, long distances between schools, and an absence of facilities and equipment usually restricted the level of competition to intramural matches. In direct contrast, the game played in many of Alberta's urban centers reached a high level of organization during this era. The progressive development of schoolgirls' basketball was most noticeable in Edmonton where, in 1908, the earliest schoolgirls' league was formed. It was a four-team circuit comprising the high school, Queen's Avenue school, McKay Avenue school, and Alexander Taylor school.[33] Six seasons later Edmonton boasted a twenty-five team, four-divisional Public School Girls' Basketball League,[34] plus a girls' high school[35] and a girls' intercollegiate league.[36] At Calgary the participant popularity of basketball among the schoolgirls followed a similar pattern and by the winter of 1917-1918 twenty-nine teams competed in the Calgary Public School Girls' Basketball League.[37]

Two attributes distinguished schoolgirls' basketball during this era. First, because of a paucity of indoor playing areas, leagues and challenge matches were often impelled to forsake the traditional winter indoor season and instead, operated out-of-doors during the spring or fall. And second, the girls' uniforms normally consisted of long full bloomers, long stockings, and voluminous blouses. Pictures of this sportswear are quite entertaining by today's standards.

The zeal which schoolgirls demonstrated for this sport in Edmonton was partially responsible for inciting one of this century's greatest sporting accomplishments. In the fall of 1914 two new commercial classes were opened at Edmonton's John A. McDougall School. Physical education was to be a compulsory subject and since no lady teacher was available Mr. J. Percy Page, one of two male instructors, agreed to take charge of the girls' training. Because of basketball's popularity among the schoolgirls, the Commercial girls decided to enter a team in the high school league. Somewhat of a surprise to all those involved, the fledgling Commercial aggregation promptly won their first city high school championship.[38] The following spring the girls added the Edmonton intercollegiate league title[39] and, by defeating Camrose Normal School 12-7, the Alberta ladies' basketball championship, which was represented by the recently-donated Wilson Shield.[40] Encouraged by these successes, the Commercial girls decided to keep on playing when they graduated and so, on June 15, 1915, the Commercial Graduates' Basketball Club was organized.[41] Original members of this club were forwards, Miss Batson and Miss Osborne; centers, Miss Anderson and Miss Bremner; and defence, Miss Reid and Miss Martin.[42] Percy Page remained as coach.

At McDougall school, a highly-efficient "farm system" evolved: the junior girls' team; the senior girls'; the Gradettes; and the cream of the graduates, the Grads. In subsequent years the Edmonton Grads became too good for provincial competition, and in consequence sought Canadian and international honors. During their twenty-five year existence, from 1915 to 1940, they played 522 games in Canada, the United States, and Europe, winning 502 and losing only twenty, two of which were to men's teams. Needless to say, the Grads retained the Alberta ladies' championship in 1916, 1917, and 1918.[43] In fact,

> ... between 1915 and 1940, the Grads or the Gradettes, their lesser satellites, won every provincial championship save one; and even that one was lost on the technical ruling that one player was still a Commercial High Student and therefore not a graduate.[44]

In this era, participation in basketball by schoolboys and men was widespread in Southern Alberta's Mormon settlements. Elsewhere, however, the male population did not play the game extensively. Inter-town and inter-city leagues did not become popular. In the main this was due to the domineering participant and spectator appeal of other sports. For example, in reference to the 1913 Calgary Interscholastic Basketball League the Albertan stated that "Owing to the short season between rugby and hockey, the ball tossers will finish their schedule before Christmas."[45] Other factors which retarded expansion of men's basketball were the scarcity of indoor playing facilities, the deficiency of provincial organization, and World War I. The effect of the War on Calgary's 1916 provincial men's championship squad is well depicted by the following press excerpt.

> For some time past basketball teams in Lethbridge, Medicine Hat and other places have been hurling challenges at Calgary. For the information of these teams, the address of last year's champion basketball team is here given — Care of Army Post Office, London, Eng. Challenges should be sent direct to that address, and any team that would like to meet them, ..., can arrange with any Calgary recruiting officer to facilitate their trip.[46]

In other towns and cities, and in high schools, preparatory colleges, and the University of Alberta, the War also took its toll on the number of players.

Footnotes

[1] Henry Hall Roxborough, Great Days in Canadian Sport, Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1957, p. 132.

[2] Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 163.

[3] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, pp. 133 and 313.

[4] Calgary Herald, November 13, 1902.

[5] Edward Barry Mitchelson, "The Evolution of Men's Basketball in Canada, 1892-1936," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1968, pp. 54-56.

[6] Lethbridge News, August 19, 1904.

[7] Lethbridge Herald. Cardston 75th Anniversary Edition, 1887-1962, Lethbridge, Alberta: The Lethbridge Herald, June 23, 1962, second section, p. 18.

[8] Lethbridge News, August 18, 1905.

[9] Edmonton Bulletin, November 4, 5, and 21, 1908.

[10] Calgary Albertan, November 15, 1911.

[11] Edmonton Bulletin, November 19, 1912.

[12] Ibid., November 21, 1912. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, November 21, 1908, November 25, 1913, December 31, 1913 and Calgary Albertan, April 5, 1912.

[13] Edmonton Bulletin, November 17 and December 3, 1913.

[14] Ibid., March 20, 1915.

[15] Ibid., January 19, 1916.

[16] Calgary Albertan, April 6, 1912, March 25, 1913, March 14 and 21, 1914, and April 3, 1915.

[17] Ibid., April 3, 1916.

[18] Ibid., March 25 and 28, 1916 and Edmonton Bulletin, November 14, 1916.

[19] Edmonton Bulletin, December 29, 1917.

[20] Ibid., December 31, 1917.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Ibid., March 25, 1918.

[23] Ibid., April 1, 1918.

[24] Ibid., December 31, 1912.

[25] Calgary Albertan, January 2, 1913.

[26] Ibid., January 14, 1914.

[27] Ibid., January 16, 1914.

[28] Edmonton Bulletin, January 17, 1914.

[29] Mitchelson, op. cit., p. 80.

[30] Edmonton Bulletin, October 10, 1906. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, September 27, 1913 and September 26, 1916.

[31] Calgary Albertan, October 9, 1909.

[32] Ibid., May 16 and 26, 1914.

[33] Edmonton Bulletin, October 8, 1908.

[34] Ibid., September 24 and 26, 1914.

[35] Ibid., March 22, 1915.

[36] Ibid., February 1 and March 22, 1915.

[37] Calgary Albertan, November 5, 1917.

[38] Commercial Graduates Club, Sitting on Top of the World, Edmonton: ca. 1940, p. 3.

[39] Edmonton Bulletin, March 22, 1915.

[40] Ibid., March 29, 1915.

[41] Commercial Graduates Club, loc. cit.

[42] Edmonton Bulletin, March 22, 1915.

[43] Commercial Graduates Club, op. cit., p. 7.

[44] Roxborough, op. cit., p. 136.

[45] Calgary Albertan, November 22, 1913. Also, see Calgary News-Telegram, February 4 and 11, 1918.

[46] Calgary Albertan, March 27, 1917.

# CHAPTER VIII

# BILLIARDS

Billiards originated in England about the fourteenth century as the "indoor development of the outdoor game of lawn bowls."[1] When lawn bowling was first moved indoors due to inclement weather, the game proved to be unchallenging. Restricted to limited playing areas, lawn bowlers found it too easy to hit their targets from short distances. Therefore the rolling of the balls was succeeded by the knocking of the balls with a stick of wood, and arches and hoops were introduced through which a ball had to be driven before a shot could be taken at a cone. Later this game moved onto huge tables, new rules required the ball to be pushed, not knocked, and pockets eventually replaced the arches and hoops.[2] Coincidentally, those who like that part of indoor lawn bowls or billiards which required action through wickets took their sport outdoors, made some changes, and the result was croquet.[3]

The game of billiards played an important role in the leisure of the adult male population of the Alberta region between 1900 and 1918. One or more billard parlors, or poolhalls as they were commonly called, were located in practically every village, town, and city in this area. The social aspect of the poolhall was almost as important as was the opportunity it provided for participation in a variety of billiard competitions. Primarily because poolhalls were associated with such societal evils as gambling, swearing, and drinking and because they were often patronized by hoodlums, females and most temperance-minded males avoided them. The installation of billiard tables in Y.M.C.A.s and in various clubs and lodges helped to alleviate this clash of interests.

Albertans indulged in various types of billiards during this era. The most popular games played were pocket billiards or pool, English billiards, American 18.2 balkline billiards, snooker, three cushion carom billiards, and straight rail or three ball billiards. Competitions took the form of either handicap tournaments or challenge matches. In tournament play an entrance fee in the fifty cents to one dollar range enabled tourney organizers to purchase prizes for the best wielders of the cue, while in challenge matches, side bets awarded the winners. The stakes involved in a side bet varied from a competitor's share of the table cost to several hundred dollars. Table costs at this time could well be afforded by the average middle-class wage earner. For example, the prices at the Empire Billiard Hall in Edmonton in 1915 were pool, six games for twenty-five cents, and billiards, forty cents per hour.[4]

As the number of billiard participants increased, billiard parlor facilities became more expansive. In 1901

Calgary's most up-to-date poolhall was located in Charles Traunweiser's establishment, "The Hub". It contained an English billiard table, a pool table, and an American cushion carom table.[5] Fourteen years later the Ryle Billiard Parlors was the finest billiard hall in Calgary. Its distinctive characteristics included ten English billiard, four American billiard, and six pocket billiard tables, all made of Circassian walnut and inlaid with mother of pearl, situated on 7,500 square feet of carpetted floor space.[6]

If the number of billiard halls mentioned in newspaper gleanings and local historical books can be used as a criterion, billiards enjoyed great popularity throughout the Alberta area. At Calgary in 1914, the Albertan stated that "Billiards in this city has even superseded bowling in popularity. Every parlor in the city is doing well and each place has its own champion or pair of champions."[7] The most significant billiard event during this era was the visit of Melbourne Inman and Willie Hoppe to Edmonton and Calgary in November of 1914. At the time, Inman was regarded as the world's best English billiard player while Hoppe was acknowledged as the greatest American 18.2 balkline artist in the world.[8] Their exhibition matches were influential in promoting participation in these two games.

## Footnotes

[1] Frank G. Menke, *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 190.

[2] *Ibid*.

[3] *Ibid*., p. 756.

[4] *Edmonton Bulletin*, June 7, 1915.

[5] *Calgary Herald*, August 29, 1901.

[6] *Calgary Albertan*, January 12, 1915.

[7] *Ibid*., November 21, 1914.

[8] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 11, 13, 14, and 16, 1914 and *Calgary Albertan*, November 19, 1914.

# CHAPTER IX

## BOWLING

Tenpin bowling was an obscure sport in the Alberta area at the turn of the century. According to Reid,[1] the only alleys operating in this region were located in the Edmonton Hotel at Edmonton and in the Assiniboia Hotel at Medicine Hat. At Calgary, there is evidence that a bowling alley was installed on Eighth Avenue near Centre Street in 1896.[2] Enthusiasm for the sport lagged at this time. Menke indicated that bowling was still suffering from the degrading reputation that it had acquired prior to the formation of the American Bowling Congress in 1895.[3] This reputation justifiably associated bowling with hustlers, disreputable individuals, and unscrupulous proprietors.

Due initially to the efforts of the American Bowling Congress, bowling enjoyed an amazing revival in the early part of the twentieth century. Although the tenpin game first gained widespread public favor in Eastern Canada and the United States, the trend soon became manifest in the future Alberta. The growth of participation in bowling increased yearly both at the Palm alleys[4] in Edmonton and at Charles Traunweiser's Hub alleys[5] in Calgary. In 1904 the Calgary Herald reported that:

> Bowling is becoming a popular pastime in the city these days. Manager Cameron, of the Hub alleys, has offered some valuable prizes for the highest individual score this month. The high man will get a smoking combination of three pipes valued at $10, while the second and third men will receive $5 pipes.[6]

Elsewhere, the Edmonton Bulletin disclosed in 1907 that High River had entered a team in the Canadian Bowling Association tournament at Toronto.[7]

Tenpin bowling had become firmly established in Edmonton and Calgary by 1908 at which time a ten-team Calgary Bowling League was founded in January,[8] while in September an eight-team Edmonton Bowling League was organized.[9] Each team was composed of five players. The Calgary Albertan claimed that the Calgary league was the first city bowling circuit to be established in Western Canada.[10] Later in the year, in the first inter-city bowling competition ever held in Alberta, a Calgary team defeated their Edmonton counterparts in a home-and-home, total-point series.[11]

By 1909 the popularity of tenpin bowling, as an indoor winter sport, had resulted in its establishment in other Alberta centers, namely, Red Deer, Claresholm, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat. Following this, inter-city and inter-town matches became common. These competitions were enhanced by variations between alleys. The first alleys introduced into the Alberta area were constructed in sections but by 1908, newer models were being assembled on a continuous plan which avoided cross sections, thus making it impossible for a bowled ball to jump or be diverted from its course.[12] Bowlers were often selected to teams not necessarily because they were high scorers on their home alleys, but because they could quickly adjust to strange alleys.

In the second decade of the twentieth century, Alberta's bowlers seldom had the opportunity to blame the alleys of a neighboring town or city for their poor performances during inter-urban competition. The establishment of an elaborate telegraph service within the province resulted in the immediate acceptance of the telegraphic match format. From 1910 until the end of this era, bowlers, with but a few exceptions, were content to settle their differences via the telegraph. Provincial and international championship tournaments were occasions when bowlers from various villages, towns, and cities competed on the same alleys.

The rivalries between towns and cities in bowling became just as intense as they did in other team sports. This was aptly depicted when a Calgary team journeyed to Medicine Hat to play the best from that city in April, 1909.

> Seven hundred raving fans rooted Calgary to defeat on Saturday at Medicine Hat, when the locals took a trip to the Med. Hat town to play a series of bowling games with the Mat Hatters, the final count standing four games to the Hat, and three to Calgary...
>
> Horns, cow bells, megaphones and whistles, aided by good strong lungs, were among the instruments used in the bedlam of noises coming

> from the spectators, four deep around the alleys and pins, and when the final balls were rolled and the Hat declared winners, these broke loose in earnest. The scene was indescribable for enthusiasm, and joy reigned supreme after the smoke cleared away.[13]

From 1909 to 1911, bowling in Alberta was controlled and administered under the auspices of the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.). But because the amateur union was preoccupied governing major sports like association football, athletics (track and field), and hockey, bowling was almost totally ignored. Although Alberta Provincial Bowling Tournaments (tenpin) were held by the A.A.A.A. in 1909,[14] 1910,[15] and 1911,[16] these tournaments lacked organization and were merely local in character. In 1911, cognizant of the disadvantages involved in being controlled at an organizational level by the A.A.A.A., bowling enthusiasts from throughout Alberta created the Alberta Bowling Association.[17] This association was formed during the third annual Alberta Provincial Bowling Tournament which was held at Calgary; the rules and regulations of the American Bowling Congress were adopted.

There was definitely no need for apathy at the provincial organizational level, for the growth of participation and fan support in bowling had paralleled the phenomenal growth of the province in other aspects. By 1911, in addition to the Southern Alberta centers already cited, Taber, Macleod, Pincher Creek, Frank, Strathmore, Gleichen, Bassano, Brooks, Castor, Hardisty,[18] Barons,[19] and

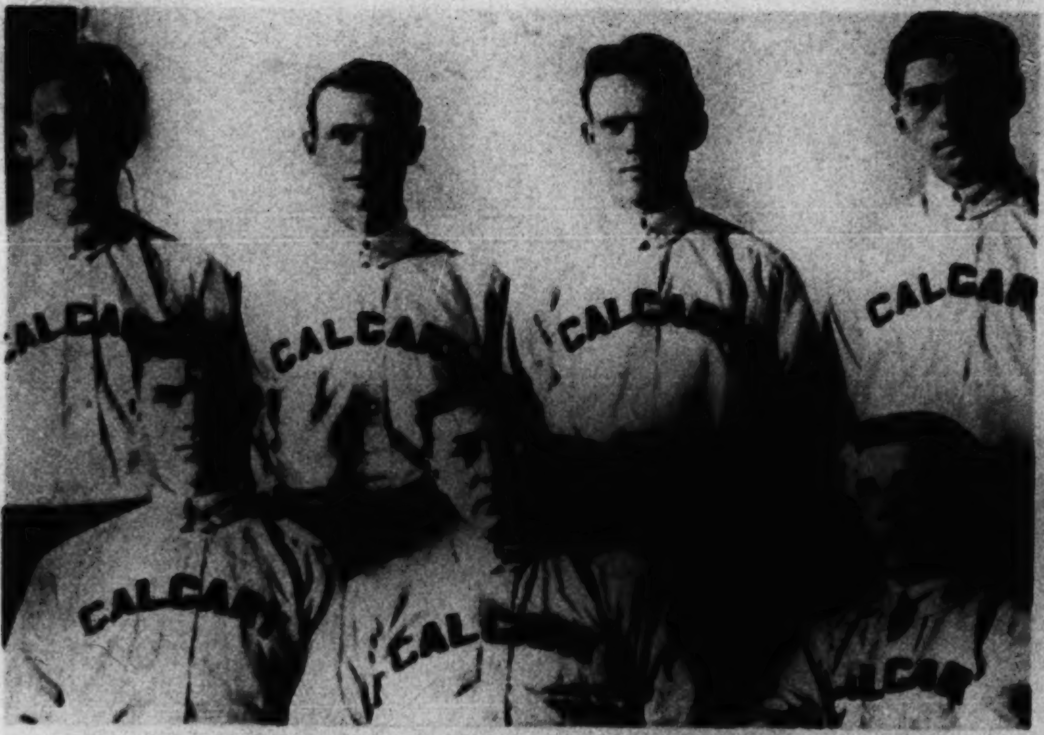

Figure 6. Tenpin bowling team that represented Calgary at the Western Bowling Congress Tournament in Los Angeles in 1912.

Blairmore[20] also boasted bowling alleys in the south.

Tenpin bowling in Alberta, especially in Calgary and Edmonton, reached a high standard of proficiency between 1910 and 1913. Provincial records were toppled weekly while on the international scene, Alberta bowlers made a significant mark. In March, 1911, teams from Medicine Hat, Calgary, and Edmonton competed at the Western Bowling Congress Tournament in Spokane, Washington. Here an Alberta team consisting of three Edmontonians and two Calgarians won a sweepstake event by toppling 2,885 pins.[21] Following on the heels of this success Kit Carson and Jack Birney, bowling in the Calgary City Bowling League, set three unofficial world records in December, 1911.[22] At the 1912 American Bowling Congress Tournament which was held at St. Paul, Minnesota, Jim Mitchell of Calgary and E. Simonton of Edmonton joined three Winnipeg bowlers to form a team. The "Caledwins" secured the best point total of any Canadian team and a piece of the prize money.[23] Continuing, in March, 1912, Jim Mitchell and Ole Christenson set two unofficial world records at the Calgary Exchange Alleys.[24] And finally, at the 1913 American Bowling Congress Tournament which was held at Toledo, Ohio, the Calgary Callies made a very creditable showing. At one point in this tournament, the five-man Calgary team had rolled into second place behind the Wooster Lamberts of St. Louis.[25] There was no account as to the final placing of the Calgary quintette.

Meanwhile, on the provincial scene, successful Alberta Bowling Association tournaments were held at Lethbridge in 1912[26] and at Edmonton in 1913.[27] Both these tournaments offered approximately $1,200 in prizes. Events contested were five-man team (open), five-man team (for centers with populations under 8,000), doubles, and singles. A special prize was awarded at both tourneys for the high average score. According to the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada rules, the awarding of cash prizes in bowling did not constitute professionalism.

Fivepin bowling was not invented until 1905, when Tommy Ryan of Toronto refined the sport as a result of experimentation conducted in an attempt to develop a pin game that was less strenuous than tenpins and suitable for noon hour participation by sedentary Toronto businessmen.[28] This new sport, developed during bowling's revival, soon spread rapidly throughout the Dominion. It was being played as early as 1908 in Alberta for in that year the Calgary Albertan reported that "The entries for the fivepin tournament at the King Edward close ...."[29] But because of the vast popularity of tenpin bowling, it was not until the War years that fivepins was given an opportunity to become established. When many tenpin stalwarts donned the khaki, their places in bowling leagues were filled by novices. Apparently many of these newcomers preferred the fivepin game. To a far greater extent than any other center, Calgary adopted and promoted this new sport. The following excerpt appeared in a February, 1915, Calgary Albertan. "Five pins are the rage just now. In all the Calgary bowling alleys the big ball is being discarded for the small one, and leagues, with enthusiasm behind them, are in vogue."[30] By the 1917-1918 bowling season, the following fivepin leagues operated in Calgary: an eight-team Hudson's Bay, ten-team Military (at Woodbine Alleys), eight-team Exchange Alleys, eight-team City Alleys, Woodbine Commercial,[31] and an eight-team Allied Printing Trades.[32] In contrast, only one tenpin league was reported.[33]

The outstanding fivepin bowler in Alberta during this era was Harry Young of Calgary. In 1918 his competence was unsurpassed.

> What is doubtless a world's five-pin record was rolled by Harry Young, a veteran of the 48th Highlanders, at the Woodbine Alleys last night. Young rolled ten games for a total of 729 pins, lacking only one pin of making an average of 73 for the ten games...
>
> The game was a match affair, played under official rules, with scorer and foul-line judge...
>
> Thirty-four times this season he has bowled over 100, and has a high score of 133.[34]

The pin arrangement and the size of the pins and the bowling balls, which were major determinants in the skill level of this fivepin sport, could not be ascertained. But it is known that each pin counted as one point, ten frames made up a game, and 150 points was a perfect score.

The overwhelming acceptance of fivepin bowling did not mean the death of the tenpin game. Leagues, although fewer in number, continued to function in many Alberta centers. The highlight of tenpin bowling during the War took place at Saskatoon in 1916 on the occasion of the second annual tournament of the Saskatchewan Bowling Association. Here, Youngstown, Alberta, bowlers captured the open five-man team, the open singles, and the novice singles events.[35]

In summarizing, it may be stated that bowling grew rapidly in popularity between 1900 and 1914. Between 1910 and 1914, some of the best tenpin bowlers in the world resided in Alberta. Although it allowed fivepins to replace tenpins as the most popular pin sport, the War had little effect on the overall growth of bowling primarily because the sport is an individual or small-team activity. Participation in bowling by ladies and children during this era was negligible. This was the result of two factors: the ignominious reputation that stigmatized bowling during the late nineteenth century; and the synonymy of attitude attached to the bowling alley and the "undesirable" poolhall, both of which were most often located under the same roof.

Footnotes

[1] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, pp. 86-87.

[2] Elizabeth Bailey Price, Manuscripts and clippings relating to Alberta pioneers, ca. 1930's, Provenance: Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Archives.

[3] Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1963, pp. 210-211.

[4] Edmonton Bulletin, May 5, 1904.

[5] Calgary Herald, October 24, 1901.

[6] Ibid., January 7, 1904.

[7] Edmonton Bulletin, February 8, 1907.

[8] Calgary Albertan, January 8 and 14, 1908.

[9] Edmonton Bulletin, September 25, 1908.

[10] Calgary Albertan, January 8, 1908.

[11] Edmonton Bulletin, December 29 and 31, 1908.

[12] Calgary Albertan, October 8, 1908.

[13] Ibid., April 5, 1909.

[14] Ibid., March 10, 13, and 15, 1909.

[15] Ibid., March 21, 1910.

[16] Ibid., March 24 and 25, 1911.

[17] Ibid., March 24, 1911.

[18] Ibid., March 10, 1911.

[19] Ibid., March 23, 1911.

[20] Blairmore Lions Club, The Story of Blairmore, Alberta, 1911-1961, Lethbridge, Alberta: Printed by the Lethbridge Herald, 1962, p. 56.

[21] Calgary Albertan, March 20, 1911.

[22] Ibid., December 29, 1911.

[23] Ibid., February 1, 1912. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, February 19, 1912.

[24] Calgary Albertan, March 1 and 2, 1912.

[25] Ibid., February 27, 1913.

[26] Lethbridge Herald, March 22 and 23, 1912.

[27] Edmonton Bulletin, February 18, March 22 and 29, and April 1, 1913.

[28] W.A. Hewitt, Down the Stretch, Toronto: Ryerson Press, 1958, p. 52.

[29] Calgary Albertan, April 28, 1908.

[30] Ibid., February 5, 1915.

[31] Calgary News-Telegram, October 24 and November 5, 6, 10, and 13, 1917.

[32] Calgary Albertan, April 3, 1918.

[33] Calgary News-Telegram, October 19, 1917.

[34] Calgary Albertan, March 9, 1918.

[35] Edmonton Bulletin, March 20, 1916.

# CHAPTER X

## BOXING

In the late nineteenth century, boxing was mainly a spectator sport in the Alberta area. Touring professionals gave exhibition bouts in such centers as Lethbridge, Macleod, Calgary, and Edmonton whenever promoters could create enough interest to guarantee a worthwhile gate.[1] This trend continued, with an increasing frequency of bouts in a growing number of towns, well into the twentieth century.

Between 1900 and approximately 1905 corruption tainted the image of professional boxing. This was caused by occasional fights between pugilists from Eastern Canada and the United States the outcomes of which were prearranged by bribery. Such tussles seldom lasted longer than two or three rounds since the contestants were eager to make an easy purse. A headline in a 1903 Calgary Herald alliteratively describes one of these bouts: "Fake Fight Finishes in a Foul. How the Foreign Fistic Fancy Fattens on the Fatuity of the Foolish City Farmers."[2]

According to the criminal code in effect during this era, professional boxing contests were technically prize fights and therefore were unlawful. The Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906 defined a prize fight as "an encounter or fight with fists or hands, between two persons who have met for such purpose by previous arrangement made by or for them ...."[3] Under the act respecting prize fighting, penalties to those convicted of an offense were harsh.

> 104. Every one is guilty of an offense and liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars and not less than one hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour, or to both, who sends or publishes, or causes to be sent or published or otherwise made known, any challenge to fight a prize fight, or accepts any such challenge, or causes the same to be accepted, or goes into training preparatory to such fight, or acts as trainer or second to any person who intends to engage in a prize fight.
>
> 105. Every one is guilty of an offense and liable, on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months and not less than three months, with or without hard labour, who engages as a principal in a prize fight.
>
> 106. Every one is guilty of an offense and liable, on summary conviction, to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and not less than fifty dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months, with or without hard labour, or to both, who is present at a prize fight as an aid, second, surgeon, umpire, backer, assistant or reporter, or who advises, encourages or promotes such fight.[4]

Prior to the death of Luther McCarty at Calgary in 1913, the prize fighting edict was not enforced with any consistency. For the most part, as long as bouts were conducted under the Revised Marquis of Queenbury Rules with no hitting in clinches and clean breaks, prize fighting successfully masqueraded as boxing. But there were instances where the police or municipal councils, under pressure from temperance and moral reform groups and from ministerial associations, prohibited the sport. As a result, boxing occupied a strange position in that its popularity, both spectator and participant, ebbed and flowed as public opinion changed.

By 1906 many skilled boxers had come to make Alberta their home. Because their sport had been characterized by frequent fake fights in the early 1900s, these exponents of the manly art realized that honest, foul-free, hard-fought exhibitions were the only kind that would attract wary Alberta boxing enthusiasts. Consequently the number of bogus fights decreased and the sport soon became firmly established throughout the province. At this stage of its development boxing remained primarily a spectator sport.

Late in 1906 Billy Lauder, the Canadian lightweight champion,[5] took up residence in Calgary. It was the "fighting Scot", as Lauder was known as, who, more than anyone else, vindicated the fight game. Lauder was a clean, gritty, "never-say-die" fighter who became the darling of Calgary's boxing fraternity. Until his first retirement in September of 1910, Lauder was a very active boxer averaging one fight per month.[6] In 1907, 1908, and 1909 Lauder's title[7] was mainly responsible for increasing boxing's spectator popularity in that it attracted highly-regarded lightweights from various parts of the English-speaking world to Alberta to compete. Among them were

"Kid" Hoagland; Louie Long; "Kid" Howell from Minneapolis; "Kid" Scaler from Seattle; Harry Lombard from Chicago; Lyn Truscott, the lightweight champion of Australia; Joe Galligan; Jimmy Potts from Minneapolis; Eddie Marino from Seattle; Percy Cove; and Maurice Thompson from Butte, Montana. Locally Lauder furthered interest in the sport when, in October, 1907, he opened a boxing school in the basement of Calgary's Lyric Theatre. In reference to this school the Calgary Albertan stated that "This should take very well here, as it will be the first of its kind in Calgary, and there are many enthusiasts whose knowledge has yet to be perfected."[8] Lauder charged ten dollars for a course of lessons and five dollars for a membership to the club which allowed a member to use the facilities at any time.[9]

By 1909 professional boxing had grown to assume a prominent position on the Alberta scene. Cards were featured two or more times per year in many of the province's towns and cities. In most cases, local champions were pitted against travelling professionals. Promoting the sport at this time were both athletic clubs and individuals. At Edmonton in May, 1908, the Alberta Athletic Club was organized to promote scientific boxing in that city. Bob McDonald, the proprietor of the Senate Hotel, and "Deacon" White, the manager of Edmonton's 1907 entry in the Western Canada Baseball League, were appointed joint administrators.[10] Meanwhile at Calgary, all fight cards in which Billy Lauder participated were conducted by Jimmy McEwan and Billy Stewart. The Calgary Albertan reported that:

> Before Jimmy McEwan and Billy Stewart began promoting the business, the game was very much on the rough and there was never a prize fight or boxing bout on the straight. These gentlemen have never put on a bout that they didn't do their best to give the public a run for its money.[11]

Elsewhere, Bill Donnelly[12] and Bob Parker[13] were staging pugilistic matches at Granum and Lethbridge respectively while at Carstairs, boxing bouts were held under the auspices of the Carstairs Boxing Association.[14] It was a common practice during this era for one boxer to challenge another publicly. Challenges were either announced personally from the ring during the proceedings of a fight card, or made via the newspapers or telegraph. For instance, on February 11, 1907, the Edmonton Bulletin published the following defiance.

> Barney Mullin hereby challenges any boxer in Alberta to a boxing contest to be held in Edmonton. This challenge remains open for one month from date, match will be made for a side bet or a division of the gate receipts, or both. Address communications to C.D. Howell, Strathcona.[15]

Insight into professional boxing between 1900 and 1918 is gained from the fight contracts. The articles of agreement signed by lightweights Billy Lauder and Jimmy Potts prior to their December 17, 1908, fight follow.

> 1. Billy Lauder, of Calgary, and Jimmy Potts, of Edmonton, agree to box 15 rounds, clean break rules to govern, on the night of December 17th.
>
> 2. The Alberta Athletic Association of Edmonton agrees to pay the said boxers 60 per cent of the gross receipts.
>
> 3. Lauder and Potts agree to split the 60 per cent as follows: 65 per cent to the winner and 35 per cent to the loser.
>
> 4. The boxers agree to weigh in at 133 pounds at three o'clock on the day of the contest. The weight of the gloves is not to exceed six ounces.
>
> 5. Each boxer agrees to post $100 with Bob McDonald, which shall go as forfeit for weight and appearance.
>
> 6. If either boxer is overweight, the forfeit goes to the other boxer, but to claim the same, the said boxer must agree to box opponent if not more than two pounds overweight.
>
> 7. In case of non-appearance of either man, the said forfeit goes to the club (the Alberta Athletic Association), which has a right to find a substitute.
>
> 8. It is agreed that the complimentary tickets issued shall not exceed 20.
>
> 9. The referee shall be appointed by the club and must be satisfactory to both principals.
>
> 10. The boxers agree to box at such a hall, or place, as the club may select.
>
> 11. Forfeit money must be posted by December 12th, 1908.
>
> 12. Soft bandages shall be allowed, not exceeding 24 inches.[16]

The usual cost of admittance to boxing programs which included Lauder or pugilists of similar ability in the main event was one dollar for general admission, one dollar and fifty cents for reserved seats, and two dollars for ringside seats. This price also treated lovers of the fistic art to a varying number of preliminary bouts.

Unfortunately in several centers, the lofty rank which professional boxing occupied in the 1906-1909 period led directly to the sport's downfall. The fine collection of lightweights who fought mainly in Calgary and Edmonton had lured many prize fighters, especially from the United States, into these cities. Some came as sparring partners but many others came to cash in on the animated boxing interest which prevailed at this time. Although Steward and McEwan in Calgary and McDonald and White in Edmonton did their utmost to promote scientific exhibitions of boxing, wherein hitting in clinches was barred and clean and immediate breaks were the rule, other individuals staged cards where fights were not always on the square and where in-fighting and fouling were tolerated. At Calgary the city council and city police force together attempted to safeguard the public from unsavory prize fighting by charging a $100 license fee for permission to conduct boxing programs.[17] Despite the fact that permits were to be issued only to trustworthy individuals,[18] the deterrent did not prove effectual. Calgary became a haven for "all the plug-uglies and their camp followers in this part of the country, and prize fighting and prize fighters became a factor in the daily life of the city."[19] The situation reached a climax in June of 1909 when at the conclusion of a bout between "Kid" Scaler and Eddie Marino, an aggrieved second jumped into the ring and started to punch the referee.[20] Less than two months later Calgary city council, without a single opponent, passed bylaw 989 which prohibited all boxing and sparring contests inside the city's limits to which admission was charged.[21]

Subsequently in Edmonton, Chief of Police Lancey, fearing a mass migration of professional pugilists from Calgary, banned prize fighting in the capital.[22] But the Calgary and Edmonton prohibitions did not rid the province of the prize fighting element. Boxing cards were simply transferred to other Alberta communities where local governments were not adamant towards the sport.

At Calgary in 1910, the Fairmont Athletic Club and the Swastika Club Limited overcame bylaw 989 and began to promote cards outside of Calgary's city limits. These clubs met with moderate success. Late in the summer that year, Abe Attell, then the world's featherweight champion,[23] was brought to Calgary to do battle with two of Alberta's select lightweights, Eddie Marino and Billy Lauder. In scheduled fifteen-round fights Attell decisioned Marino on August 22,[24] and two weeks later kayoed Lauder in the seventh round.[25] From newspaper descriptions of the fights it appears as if Attell was more concerned with obtaining good workouts than he was with disposing of his adversaries. With boxing back in favor at Calgary, even though it was still illegal within the city limits, the Edmonton city police, early in 1911, lifted the ban on professional fighting in the northern city.[26]

Bassano, an enterprising town situated on the transcontinental Canadian Pacific Railway between Calgary and Medicine Hat, burst into the sporting limelight in

1912. Much of the town's prosperity that year was due to the construction of an immense dam three miles south on the Bow River. In January Bassano made a bid for the proposed world's heavyweight championship fight between champion Jack Johnson and challenger Jim Flynn. The following telegraph was sent by the Bassano Boxing Club to Jack Curley, manager of the fight, in care of the sporting editor of the Chicago Record-Herald.

> Can guarantee $50,000 gate receipts for the Johnson-Flynn fight. If satisfactory arrangements can be made for the contest on Monday, July 1st, our national holiday, which will prove the gate-getting day for the fight, Canadian business men as far east as Winnipeg and west to Vancouver will lose no time from their offices when coming to Bassano. This being the first heavyweight championship fight in Canada, the gate will be greater than any other centre on the continent. There are 15,000 miners and railroad men located along the Crow's Nest C.P.R. line, and within easy distance of Bassano.[27]

Curley promptly replied that the proposition sounded good and if the Bassano club could assure him that authorities would sanction the bout, he would give it serious consideration.[28] At this junction in negotiations Alberta's Attorney General, C.W. Cross, intervened stating that the Flynn-Johnson fight would not be allowed to take place in the province since it would be nothing more than a prize fight.[29] That spring, Bassano was awarded a fight of national importance. On the evening of June 27, Joe Bayley of Vancouver, the Western Canadian lightweight champ, and Billy Allen, the Eastern titleholder,[30] clashed for the

Canadian lightweight boxing championship. Under the lights before 2,500 fans in Bassano's new open-air arena, Bayley won a fifteen-round decision over Allen.[31] Also in 1912, Bassano, "the best town in the West by a damsite,"[32] held a franchise in the Western Canada Baseball League.

The Bayley-Allen fight at Bassano was promoted and refereed by Tommy Burns, a native of Hanover, Ontario, who was the world's heavyweight champion for almost three years, 1906-1908.[33] Burns came to Calgary in semiretirement in late 1910 and bought a clothing business and a lovely home in Elbow Park.[34] His heart still in the fight game the ex-champ turned to promoting. In the summer of 1912 Burns financed Burns' Arena, also known as Manchester Arena, which was built just outside of Calgary's limits at the end of the Manchester streetcar line on Second Street East.[35] In its nine-month existence (August of 1912 to May of 1913), Burns' Arena, which had a seating capacity of about 6,000,[36] was the sight of numerous noteworthy fistic battles.

Largely due to the efforts of Burns, who was one of Alberta's most revered citizens at the time, professional boxing as a spectator sport enjoyed a period of prosperity in 1912 and 1913, until May 25, which was unsurpassed during this era and which, perhaps, has never been equalled in the province's entire history. In early September of 1912 at Burns' Arena, Joy Bayley retained his Canadian lightweight title when he stopped Billy Allen in

PELKEY
McCARTY

Figure 7. Arthur Pelkey (left) and Luther McCarty (right) prior to their famous heavyweight boxing match at Calgary on May 24, 1913.

Figure 8. The University of Alberta Boxing and Wrestling Club, spring of 1915.

the third round of a return engagement.[37] Thirty-two hundred spectators paid $8,017 to see the fight. According to the Calgary News-Telegram the box office statement set a record for boxing in Western Canada, if not in the entire Dominion. Bayley and Allen each received $2,004.25 or twenty-five per cent of the gross receipts.[38] Lovers of the manly art also crowded training quarters to catch a view of their favorite boxer in fight preparation. Prior to the Charles Riley versus Jimmy Potts lightweight bout at Edmonton in April, 1912, the Bulletin reported that

> If you are particularly anxious to see Riley sparring with his trainer, Harry Lombard, it is necessary that you get to the Club gymnasium early, for every day there is such a mob there that if you are a few minutes late it is impossible to get close enough to see him.[39]

In the above fight, Riley and Potts fought to a fifteen-round draw before 1,200 fans who literally packed the Lyceum Theatre.[40]

A number of clever lightweights fighting regularly in Alberta's two largest cities gave boxing devotees their money's worth. These lightweights included Riley from San Francisco; Potts from Minneapolis; Bayley; "Kid" Scaler from Seattle and Edmonton; Ernie Barrieau from Vancouver; "Fighting" Dick Hyland from San Francisco; "Pal" Brown from Hibbing, Minnesota; and Maurice Thompson, from Butte, Montana. Interest in the sport was so intense that the "Canadian style" (Revised Marquis of Queensbury Rules), which prohibited hitting in clinches and made clean breaks mandatory, was occasionally ignored in favor of the straight Marquis of Queensbury Rules which allowed fighting in clinches, or in other words, in-fighting. The Calgary Albertan described one such fight between Bayley and Hyland in October, 1912.

> The battle was fought under straight Marquis of Queensbury rules, with the principals protecting themselves at all times. The hopes of the backers of the champion (Bayley) dropped to the freezing point when this announcement was made, for this style was just pie for the experienced Californian (Hyland). He took advantage of the chance, and rained the blows to Bayley's kidneys and face until the latter was a fit subject for the booby prize at a beauty show ...
>
> If the bout had been conducted under the clean break rules, which have governed all the contests of recent date in Calgary, there would probably be a different story to tell, for at long range the present holder of the title was at his best, and by the use of a straight left and a right hook to the stomach made Fighting Dick pretty uncomfortable.[41]

Fortunately for Bayley this bout resulted in a draw. Information from newspapers of this era indicated that the straight Marquis of Queensbury Rules closely approximated the legal authorities' definition of a prize fight. However, no lawful action was taken at this time, even though the Alberta group of the temperance and moral reform committee of the Methodist church of Canada did petition the provincial government to

> ... amend the criminal code so as to define more clearly the difference between a boxing bout and a prize fight, to make the prize fight illegal, and attendance at a prize fight an indictable offence, and to confine boxing bouts to four rounds under restricted conditions.[42]

In 1913 Tommy Burns embarked on an ambitious program designed to determine a worthy opponent for the reigning heavyweight champion of the world, Negro Jack Johnson. At the time, Arthur Pelkey, a twenty-three-year-old heavyweight from Chatham, Ontario, had come under Burns' tutelage. Around Calgary long enough to be considered a local boy, Pelkey became a legitimate challenger for the world title,on May 1 at Burns' Arena when he stopped Andy Morris of Boston in the eighth round.[43] Burns then matched Pelkey against Luther McCarty, twenty-two years of age and a former Oklahoma cowboy who, coincidentally, had begun his boxing career at Calgary two years earlier.[44] In the meantime McCarty had fought his way into prominence and when he arrived back at Calgary in early May, 1913, he was a household name in pugilistic circles and held the title "White Heavyweight Champion of the World."[45] After giving Pelkey a terrific buildup, Burns billed the famous bout as a May 24 attraction. The fight drew worldwide attention since McCarty was regarded as the strongest challenger anywhere for the crown held by Johnson.

Fifty-six hundred spectators[46] in a festive holiday mood crowded into Burns' Arena around 10:30 A.M. that May 24, 1913. They had paid two dollars for general admission, five dollars for ringside seats, and six dollars for box seats.[47] After two preliminary contests, referee Eddie Smith, sporting editor of the Chicago American, summoned the two heavyweights to the center of the ring and at 12:57 P.M. the gong sounded and the fight began.

> THE BOXERS GET INTO ACTION
>
> ...The men advanced to the center of the ring and touched gloves. Pelkey was grinning. Luther led a left, after some sparring, but it was a foot short, Pelkey stepping back quickly. The local man then swung a short right to the head and again Luther tried a left jab and again it fell short, Pelkey skipping backward almost to the ropes on the east side of the ring. They sparred again, each trying to draw the other into a lead.
>
> THE LAST BLOW IS STRUCK
>
> Luther rushed at Pelkey but the latter sidestepped and shot a short left to the face, the hardest blow of the bout and that without much power. McCarty put a glancing right to Pelkey's ribs and then rushed again. As he was going into a clinch, Pelkey used his right to the body, the blow landing on the chest but its exact locality was not apparent from the press table.
>
> McCARTY REELS AND FALLS
>
> Referee Smith called upon the men to break and it was McCarty who shoved Pelkey back. He raised his hands to a boxing attitude, looked toward his corner and, so Billy McCarney states, winked at him. A moment later, Luther's gloves went above his head, he reeled for a fraction of a second and fell backward, striking on his right shoulder with his curly head a bit under the ropes at the west side of the ring.
>
> TUMBLE WAS UNEXPECTED
>
> Pelkey was five or six feet away when McCarty started to fall and his tumble was so sudden and unexpected that everybody was surprised. Referee Smith was plainly at a loss to understand matters but he quickly jumped to the side of the fallen man and began his count of ten.[48]

The moment Smith finished his count, at one minute and forty-five seconds, McCarney, McCarty's manager, raced across the ring and yelled for a doctor. Immediately a team of doctors was at McCarty's side. They resorted to artificial respiration, morphine, and brandy. But all was to no avail. The great McCarty was dead.

The Calgary News-Telegram stated that "The scenes following the announcement of McCarty's death will never be forgotten by those who witnessed them. The tragedy was staggering in the extreme."[49] Both Pelkey[50] and Burns[51] were arrested by the Royal North West Mounted Police and then released on $10,000 bail each. Then, thirty-six hours after the tragic fight, Tommy Burns' Manchester Arena mysteriously burned to the ground.[52] The coroner's jury found that Luther McCarty came to his death accidentally. Cause of death was cited as a sublaxation of the fourth cervical vertebra and the resulting hemorrhage into the spinal canal and the base of the brain.[53] Even in the face of this verdict, a charge of manslaughter was laid against Pelkey. Four weeks later Pelkey was acquitted, his defence being that McCarty's death was the direct result of a previous injury.[54] Nevertheless, Chief Justice Harvey ruled that any encounter with fists, previously arranged for, was a prize fight, and was not permissable.[55] On June 29, 1913, Alberta's Deputy Attorney General, L.F. Clarry, announced that professional boxing contests would no longer be allowed in the province.[56]

Prior to the Pelkey-McCarty incident, amateur boxing in Alberta had generally been confined to the Y.M.C.A.s and two educational institutes, Western Canada College in Calgary[57] and the University of Alberta.[58] But as a sequel to Justice Harvey's decision, in which he also adjudicated that exhibitions of sparring or boxing on its scientific side were not objectionable, all boxing energies for the next two and one-half years were redirected toward the amateur aspect of the sport. The initial provincial amateur boxing championships (unofficial) were held in conjunction with the 1913 Labor Day sports' celebration at Calgary.[59] In 1915 the first Alberta Amateur Athletic Association-sanctioned boxing and wrestling championships took place. Held at Edmonton, this tournament was a rousing success. Twenty-eight entrants from the Edmonton Amateur Athletic Club (E.A.A.C.), the Lethbridge Athletic Club, the Medicine Hat Athletic Club, Edmonton (unattached), the Athabasca Landing Athletic Club, Alberta College of Edmonton, the Calgary Y.M.C.A., the Crossfield Boxing and Wrestling Club, the University of Alberta, and Clover Bar competed in seven events.[60] The winners in the various weight divisions were Alec Tait, E.A.A.C. (105 pounds); Clarence Hardie, E.A.A.C. (115 pounds); Cloney Tait, E.A.A.C. (125 pounds); Forest Day, Athabasca (135 pounds); Lieut. J. Convery, Calgary Y.M.C.A. (145 pounds); G. Yancey, E.A.A.C. (158 pounds); and E.C. Annis, University of Alberta (175 pounds).[61] In conformity with the rules of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, amateur boxing bouts consisted of three rounds of three minutes' duration plus an extra two-minute round if it was necessary for a decision. Two judges and the referee were empowered to make all decisions.

Amateur boxing reached its pinnacle as both a participant and a spectator sport in 1915. By that year amateur athletic, and boxing and wrestling clubs in many of Alberta's towns and cities held regular cards. The most renowned of these amateur organizations was the Edmonton Amateur Athletic Club. Formed on January 4, 1915, under the guidance of Louis "Kid" Scaler,[62] this club proved to be an immediate success. At its opening matches 200 boxing enthusiasts were turned away from the St. Regis Hotel gymnasium.[63] Because of the small seating capacity of this facility, the E.A.A.C. was forced to move its headquarters to the second floor of the Varden Garage where 1,000 spectators could comfortably be seated.[64] Throughout 1915 the E.A.A.C. held excellent weekly or bimonthly cards that were supported by large attendances. Scaler developed a great stable of well-trained and well-conditioned amateur fighters who consistently defeated the best amateurs from Vancouver, Seattle, Spokane, and Calgary. Scaler's most outstanding student was Cloney Tait. Tait climaxed his amateur career in September that year when he knocked out highly-touted Tom Mason of the Seattle Amateur Athletic Club in the first round of a fight in Edmonton.[65]

The War provided an opportunity for professional boxing to return to the province. On New Year's Day, 1916, at Edmonton, "Kid" Scaler was bested by the titleholder, Johnny O'Leary, in his bid for the Canadian lightweight championship.[66] Promoted by Bob McDonald, the bout took place under military auspices at the horse show pavilion. Ten per cent of the gross receipts went to the regimental funds of Edmonton's 51st, 63rd, and 66th Battalions.[67] In view of the fact that professional boxing had been outlawed, the Edmonton Bulletin remarked:

> ... that Saturday's bout is under military auspices and will draw the major portion of its audience from the ranks of the three battalions, is sufficient to assure the majority of local citizens that it should not be interfered with. Attempts to infringe with the liberties of our brave soldiers seem to be in rather bad taste just now when the nation is at war. Good clean boxing should be encouraged, not frowned upon, for it is the athletes who are bearing the brunt of Canada's burden in the contingents.[68]

Boxing was an indispensable part of military sports, and therefore was given a great boost in November of 1915 when the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association expressed the decision that "in competition amongst enlisted men soldiers may compete with or against professionals and not endanger their amateur standing, providing they receive no remuneration."[69] The grandest military boxing tournament in Alberta during the War was held at Sarcee Camp in July, 1916. Here, sixty entrants competed in the ten-day Alberta Military Boxing Championships.[70] Although no admission was charged to the preliminaries, 8,000 soldiers and civilians paid fifty cents for rush seats, seventy-five cents for reserved seats, and one dollar for ringside seats to the finals of the eight weight divisions. All proceeds went to the Returned Veterans' Association.[71]

In early 1916, primarily because "Kid" Scaler could no longer procure suitable amateur opposition for such talented boxers as Cloney Tait and Forest Day, the Edmonton Amateur Athletic Club resorted to professionalism. In February Tait made his professional debut by defeating Charlie Burns, a former Canadian lightweight champion, in the main event of a E.A.A.C. program.[72] Though the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association promptly suspended the E.A.A.C.,[73] no legal action was taken. Having established a precedent, Scaler continued to promote professional cards in the ensuing months. This trend soon spread to other areas of the province[74] and, as a result, amateur boxing lost its appeal.

Within the realm of sports, Cloney Tait was one of Alberta's most famous native sons. Unlike the large majority of athletes who excelled in Alberta during this era, Tait was born and raised in the province;[75] he was an Edmontonian and a product of the E.A.A.C. On July 10, 1917, Tait gained national recognition when before a capacity crowd at the Empress Theatre in Medicine Hat, he knocked out Johnny O'Leary in the tenth round to win the lightweight boxing championship of Canada.[76] Tait retained his title for the remainder of this period and in October, 1918, was appointed boxing instructor with the Canadian forces.[77]

Footnotes

[1] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, pp. 82-83.

[2] *Calgary Herald*, April 9, 1903. Also, see *Calgary Herald*, July 14, 1904.

[3] *Revised Statutes of Canada, 1906*, Volume III, Ottawa: Samuel Edward Dawson, Government Printer, 1907, chapter 146, section 2 (31).

[4] *Ibid.*, chapter 146, sections 104, 105, and 106.

[5] *Manitoba Free Press*, October 6, 1906.

[6] *Edmonton Bulletin*, September 27, 1910.

[7] *Calgary Albertan*, December 3, 1908, March 2, 1909 and *Edmonton Bulletin*, June 1, 1909.

[8] *Calgary Albertan*, October 1, 1907.

[9] *Ibid.*

[10] *Ibid.*, May 4, 1908.

[11] *Ibid.*, December 10, 1908.

[12] *Ibid.*, April 5, 1909.

[13] *Ibid.*, April 26, 1909.

[14] *Ibid.*, April 17, 1909.

[15] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 11, 1907. Also, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 14, 1912.

[16] *Ibid.*, December 5, 1908.

[17] *Calgary Albertan*, February 8, 1911.

[18] _Ibid._, December 9, 1908.

[19] _Ibid._, February 8, 1911.

[20] _Ibid._, June 18, 1909.

[21] _Ibid._, August 3, 1909.

[22] _Ibid._, June 23, 1909.

[23] Frank G. Menke, _The Encyclopedia of Sports_, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 259.

[24] _Calgary Albertan_, August 23, 1910.

[25] _Ibid._, September 6, 1910.

[26] _Edmonton Bulletin_, October 5 and 8, 1910, March 28, 1911, and April 19, 1911.

[27] _Ibid._, January 13, 1912.

[28] _Ibid._, January 15, 1912.

[29] _Ibid._, January 18, 1912.

[30] _Calgary Albertan_, June 27, 1912.

[31] _Ibid._, June 28, 1912.

[32] James G. MacGregor, _A History of Alberta_, Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972, pp. 203-204.

[33] Menke, _op. cit._, p. 250.

[34] "Tommy Burns. The Rise and Fall of Our Almost Forgotten Champion," _The Toronto Globe Magazine_, July 3, 1971, Provenance: Calgary - Sports - Personalities File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[35] _Calgary News-Telegram_, August 23 and 31, 1912.

[36] *Ibid.*, September 5, 1912 and May 26, 1913.

[37] *Ibid.*, September 5, 1912.

[38] *Ibid.*

[39] *Edmonton Bulletin*, April 3, 1912.

[40] *Ibid.*, April 13, 1912.

[41] *Calgary Albertan*, October 29, 1912.

[42] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 4, 1913.

[43] *Calgary News-Telegram*, May 2, 1913.

[44] *Ibid.*, May 26, 1913 and *Calgary Albertan*, March 17, 1911.

[45] Grant MacEwan, *Calgary Cavalcade: From Fort to Fortune*, Edmonton: The Institute of Applied Arts, Ltd., 1958, p. 168.

[46] *Calgary News-Telegram*, May 26, 1913.

[47] MacEwan, *loc. cit.*

[48] *Calgary News-Telegram*, May 26, 1913.

[49] *Ibid.*

[50] *Ibid.*

[51] *Ibid.*, May 27, 1913.

[52] *Ibid.*, May 26, 1913.

[53] *Ibid.*, May 27, 1913.

[54] *Ibid.*, June 24, 1913.

[55] *The Canadian Abridgement*, Volume 13, Criminal Law, Toronto: Burroughs and Co. (Eastern) Ltd., 1938, p. 137.

[56] Edmonton Bulletin, June 30, 1913.

[57] Calgary Albertan, June 3, 1911.

[58] The Gateway, Vol. III, No. 2 (November 1912), p. 31, Edmonton: The Students' Union, University of Alberta, 1912.

[59] Calgary Albertan, September 2, 1913.

[60] Edmonton Bulletin, April 28, 1915.

[61] Ibid., May 3, 1915.

[62] Ibid., January 5, 1915.

[63] Ibid., January 15, 1915.

[64] Ibid., March 27, 1915.

[65] Ibid., September 10, 1915.

[66] Ibid., January 3, 1916.

[67] Ibid., December 31, 1915.

[68] Ibid.

[69] Ibid., November 8, 1915.

[70] Calgary Albertan, July 8, 10, and 21, 1916.

[71] Edmonton Bulletin, July 8, 1916.

[72] Ibid., February 21, 1916.

[73] Ibid., February 23, 1916.

[74] For example, see Lethbridge Herald, May 25, September 29, and November 23, 1916.

[75] Edmonton Bulletin, April 4, 1916.

[76] Medicine Hat Daily News, July 11, 1917.

[77] Calgary Albertan, October 21, 1918.

# CHAPTER XI

## CRICKET

Since the predominant ethnic group residing in the Alberta area in 1900 was the English, it was only natural that English sports were widely and enthusiastically pursued. Among the most dominant were association football and cricket. Cricket clubs were well established at Calgary, Millarville,[1] Lethbridge, Medicine Hat,[2] Edmonton, Strathcona,[3] Pincher Creek, Macleod,[4] Pine Lake, Red Deer, Innisfail, Banff,[5] and Fort Saskatchewan.[6] Since cricket required eleven players, most of the above clubs could field only one team at a time. As a result, procurement of suitable competition was a major problem. Despite the fact that the North West Mounted Police often furnished local opposition, cricket clubs in the future Alberta were anxious to test their skill against other villages and towns. In July, 1900, the Millarville Cricket Club toured the far south and defeated both the Lethbridge and Medicine Hat Cricket Clubs.[7] But such excursions were less common than the inter-club matches which were frequently played between communities within close proximity. Inter-club competitions between such twin centers as Pincher Creek-Macleod, Calgary-Millarville, Red Deer-Pine Lake, Edmonton-Strathcona-Fort Saskatchewan, and Banff-

Canmore repeatedly occurred. These rivalries were very intense, and cricket therefore maintained its popularity. Recurrently, cricket news appeared on the front pages of the newspapers.

Various modes of transportation were used by cricket clubs in the early twentieth century when journeying to and from a neighboring center. Although the railways and the horse and buggy were the most common, the waterways were also utilized. In June, 1905, the Edmonton Bulletin reported that the Edmonton Cricket Club had chartered F.P. Hobson's steamer, "Beaver", to transport their team to Fort Saskatchewan for a game.[8]

The donation of challenge trophies to be competed for by clubs in various regions, and the appearance of the cricket tournament added impetus to the development of cricket. By 1905 in the Edmonton-Strathcona-Fort Saskatchewan district, the Ochsner Trophy was being fervently contested each season.[9] That year, Edmonton, Strathcona, and Fort Saskatchewan, in a regular league arrangement, played fourteen games each in quest of the trophy.[10] Elsewhere, in the Red Deer-Pine Lake area, possession of the Jacobson Cup was the premier honor.[11] It appears as if the cricket tournament made its debut in 1904. A correspondence from Red Deer which was printed in the Calgary Herald on June 23 stated that "The Red Deer cricket club has decided to invite Pine Lake, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin, Calgary,and Strathcona to attend a tournament here on the 27th of June (1904)."[12]

Participation in cricket grew. By 1907 the Calgary Cricket Club was playing matches against teams from Lethbridge, Okotoks, Medicine Hat, Banff, and the Calgary Young Men's Club.[13] At Edmonton, the Edmonton Cricket Club's schedule included games against Strathcona, the Yorkshiremen, Trinity and Upper Canada College Old Boys, Camrose, Wetaskiwin, Red Deer, and Pine Lake.[14] A year later, in 1908, the Southern Alberta Cricket League was organized at Calgary, embracing teams from Sheep Creek, the Calgary Cricket Club, Calgary Hillhurst, Calgary St. John's, and Bankhead-Banff.[15] That first season the Calgary Cricket Club won the I.S. Van Wart Trophy, which was emblematic of the league championship.[16]

Internationally, the Calgary Cricket Club, perhaps the best eleven in Alberta at this time, travelled to Vancouver in August, 1909, to participate in the British Columbia Cricket Championships. Under the captaincy of T.W. Bryant, Calgary defeated Revelstoke, on their way to Vancouver, and both Vernon and Seattle at the British Columbia Championships, before they were eliminated from this tournament by Burrard.[17]

The formation of the Western Canada Cricket Association (W.C.C.A.) in Winnipeg during the summer of 1910[18] was a great stimulus to the growth of cricket throughout the Prairie Provinces. At this time there was no provincial cricket governing body in Alberta. Hence, the Calgary

Cricket Club, which solicited but received no help from other Alberta clubs financially or in the way of players, represented Calgary[19] at the first annual W.C.C.A. tournament which was held at Winnipeg. Their last-place finish did nothing to reduce the enmity which they, the Calgary Cricket Club, felt towards other cricket clubs in the province due to their lack of cooperation.

The following year Alberta's cricket clubs were only slightly better organized. Prior to the W.C.C.A. tournament which was held at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, the Calgary Albertan reported that "The committee looking after the Alberta interests finds great difficulty in getting together a really representative eleven owing to the apathy of the other Alberta clubs."[20] As a result, Alberta's thirteen-man team consisted of eleven players from Calgary and two from Macleod.[21] Nevertheless, Alberta finished a close second behind the winning Saskatchewan team, and ahead of both Manitoba and the Winnipeg Cricket Association.[22]

In 1912 the Alberta Cricket Association (A.C.A.) was formally organized. The creation of this association was necessitated by the fact that Calgary had been awarded the 1912 W.C.C.A. tournament.[23] In regard to this tournament, a meeting of the A.C.A. was held in Edmonton. Here, a motion was passed:

> ...that each club affiliated with the association shall send in the names of their players whom they consider best able to uphold the

> honor of the province, and from the players so named the selection committee will determine the strongest possible eighteen players ... That should it be found necessary for the Calgary city clubs to place a team in the field in order to make up the required number of teams necessary to play, that they, the Calgary city clubs shall select their best fifteen men to represent the city of Calgary.[24]

This arrangement worked to perfection. Alberta easily won the W.C.C.A. championship with a 4-0-1 won-loss-draw record, while Calgary finished second at 3-1-1.[25]

But unfortunately for cricket in this province, the Alberta Cricket Association was, for all practical purposes, defunct by 1913. The cricket team that represented Alberta at the W.C.C.A. tourney that year at Winnipeg finished, as they had three years previously in the Manitoba capital, dead last.[26] During the tournament, the Albertan had this comment:

> ... Alberta is not represented by anything like its strongest team...
>
> If there had been a properly organized cricket association in existence at this time it is probable that the team to represent Alberta would have differed vastly from the one which is now operating in Winnipeg. It has been such a difficult matter, however, to get the actual club player to go because of the question of expenses, that cricket has suffered accordingly in popularity, and is still perhaps the most exclusive game in the world, particularly outdoors.[27]

In 1914 a more representative Alberta team, made up of twelve players from Calgary, four from Macleod, three from Edmonton, and one from Lethbridge, journeyed to Regina for the annual W.C.C.A. tournament.[28] The Alberta aggregation was victorious, finishing with a 3-0-3 record.[29] Starring for Alberta was Percy Barnett of Calgary, who completed the tourney with an average of ninety-six.[30]

From the above information it appears that Alberta cricket players, when compared to those of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, did not want for talent in the period from 1910 to 1914. What they did lack, however, was organization on a provincial scale.

Despite the near absence of provincial organization, participation in cricket grew in the pre-War years. This was mainly due to the large immigration of Englishmen into Alberta. Also influential was the 1913 visit of the touring Australian eleven, who won all five games that they played here, two in Edmonton[31] and three in Calgary.[32] The growth of cricket in the province at this time was best exemplified in Edmonton. Here in 1912, the Edmonton Cricket League was first formed and consisted of four clubs.[33] Two years later this league embraced eight teams, who played a double round-robin schedule with games slated for each Saturday from May 2 through August 15.[34] All matches were governed by the rules of the Marylebone Cricket Club of London.

Because cricket was predominantly an English-Canadian sport, the War rapidly reduced its ranks of players. The Albertan reported in 1917 that:

> Since the season of 1914 there has been very little cricket played in Calgary. There has occasionally been a friendly match arranged between the few remaining cricketers and some of the soldier teams at Sarcee.
>
> Appended below is a list of names of 83 cricketers who have enlisted. These men were

> playing with their respective teams ... during the seasons of 1912, 1913 and 1914. As you will notice, the enlistment from the four clubs has been very heavy in proportion to membership,....[35]

However in 1918, cricket was revived in numerous Alberta centers as a result of the repatriation of many veterans. That year at Edmonton, a five-team league was formed which included the Edmonton Cricket Club, St. George's Society, Great War Veterans, Amateurs, and Civics.[36]

Cricket in Alberta during this era did not gain acceptance by institutions such as the school, Y.M.C.A., and church, which were capable of mass promotion of a sport. As a result, the development of cricket was solely dependent on the English element, and its growth closely paralleled the ever-increasing population of English immigrants in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1914.

## Footnotes

[1] Calgary Herald, May 24, 1900.

[2] Ibid., July 19, 1900.

[3] Edmonton Bulletin, July 23, 1900.

[4] Macleod Gazette, August 3, 1900.

[5] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 25.

[6] Edmonton Bulletin, June 14, 1901.

[7] Calgary Herald, July 19, 1900.

[8] Edmonton Bulletin, June 8, 1905.

[9] Ibid., October 5 and 9, 1905 and October 2, 1906.

[10] Ibid., July 15, 1905.

[11] Ibid., October 2, 1907. Also, see Calgary Albertan, September 9, 1908.

[12] Calgary Herald, June 23, 1904.

[13] Calgary Albertan, May 27, June 17, July 5, and September 2, 1907.

[14] Edmonton Bulletin, July 19 and September 7, 1907.

[15] Calgary Albertan, May 6, 1908.

[16] Ibid., March 6, 1909.

[17] Ibid., August 16, 17, 19, and 24, 1909.

[18] Ibid., July 28, 1910. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, August 2, 1910.

[19] Calgary Albertan, August 16, 1910.

[20] Ibid., July 19, 1911.

[21] Ibid., August 3, 1911.

[22] Ibid., August 7, 1911.

[23] Ibid., March 4, 1912.

[24] Edmonton Bulletin, July 1, 1912.

[25] Calgary News-Telegram, August 12, 1912.

[26] Calgary Albertan, August 11, 1913.

[27] Ibid., August 5, 1913.

[28] Calgary News-Telegram, July 14, 1914.

[29] Ibid., August 10, 1914.

[30] Alberta Cricket Association, Dominion Cricket Tournament, 1949, Calgary: 1949.

[31] Edmonton Bulletin, June 5, 1913.

[32] Calgary Albertan, September 18, 1913.

[33] Edmonton Bulletin, February 20 and June 13, 1912.

[34] Ibid., May 9, 1914.

[35] Calgary Albertan, August 8, 1917.

[36] Edmonton Bulletin, July 16, 1918.

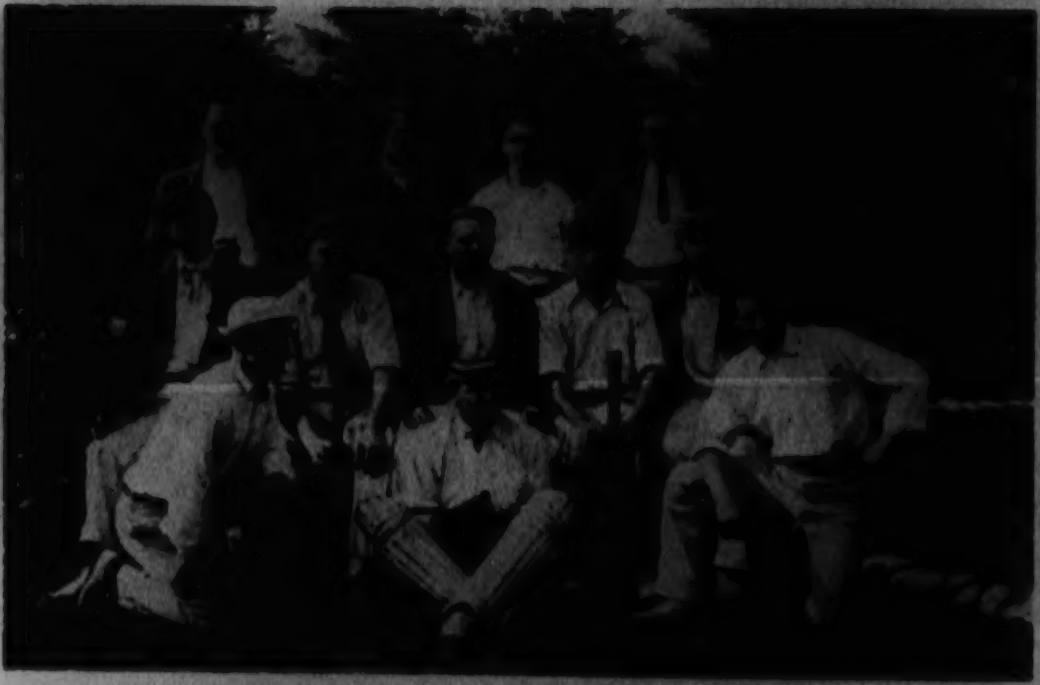

Figure 9. The 1908 Calgary Cricket Club.

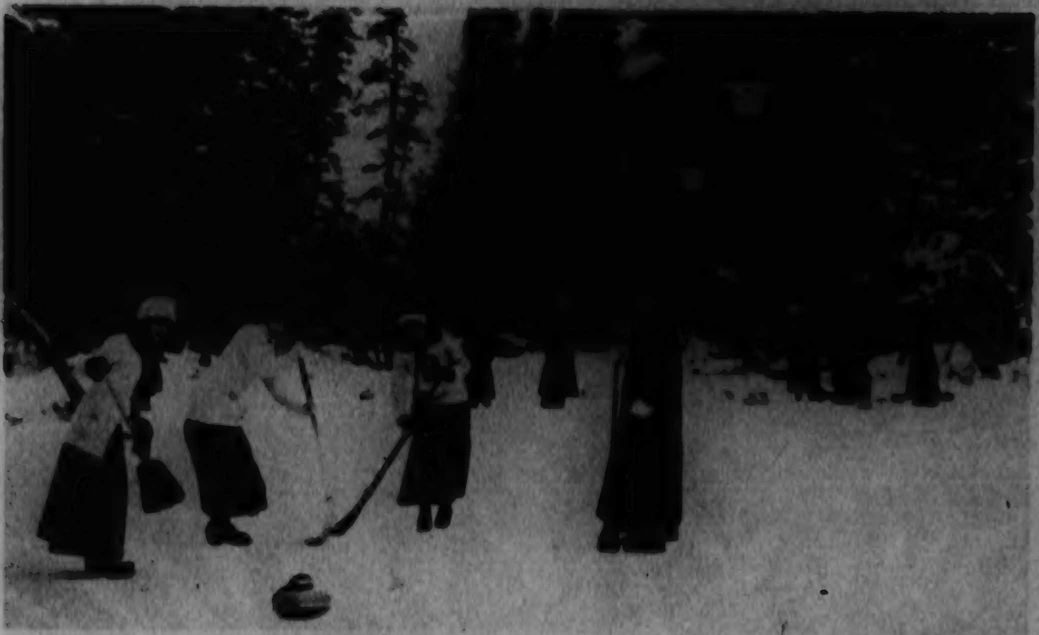

Figure 10. A women's curling game at Banff, 1903. Note the electric lighting.

# CHAPTER XII

## CURLING

Originally fostered by Scottish immigrants in whose homeland it was the national winter game, curling had developed into one of the most popular sports in Canada by the year 1900.[1] In the Alberta area the sport was well established with clubs which sported indoor rinks thriving at Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Macleod, Calgary, and Edmonton.[2] At Banff and Anthracite, in the Rocky Mountains, curling was enthusiastically participated in on outdoor rinks situated picturesquely in the midst of evergreens. Elsewhere, the sport was popular at Priddis, Millarville, Lacombe, Wetaskiwin, Fort Saskatchewan, Poplar Lake, and Strathcona.

The three levels of curling competition — intra-club, inter-club, and the bonspiel — did not vary between 1900 and 1918, although innovations were occasionally implemented. At the beginning of each season it was a general rule for clubs to elect their skips for the ensuing year. These skips then chose their thirds, seconds, and leads from the remaining membership. Because the participant popularity of curling grew rapidly, skips were often required to select one green player. Once the teams had been resolved and the ice, whether outdoors on a lake, river, creek, or pond or indoors on a flooded surface, had been readied, the intra-club competitions began. These took the form of team draws, singles, doubles, and points matches, all fiercely contested by curlers for the possession of trophies donated by local merchants, individuals, and large companies. Since sheets of curling ice were in high demand, the team draw, which consisted of regulation games between the maximum number of participants, was by far the most common form of intra-club competition. Whenever possible draws were round-robin events which allowed for equal participation. In many localities, due to an inadequacy of facilities and equipment and an abundance of trophies for competition, draws became single-elimination tournaments. This was the case at the Macleod Curling Club during the 1903-1904 season when on one sheet of ice approximately twelve teams[3] contended for eleven trophies: Stang and Co.; Webster and Co.; Hudson's Bay Co.; Calgary Brewing Co.; T. Wilton; G.F. and J. Galt; Pither and Lessir; Atkins and Co.; Calgary Milling Co.; Campbell Bros.; and Fraser.[4] In other instances where round-robin draws were impractical because of time considerations, the teams of a club were divided into four or more sections. Round-robin schedules were then completed within the various sections and the overall winner was determined when the rinks winning the most games in each section played off.

In singles competition, each contestant threw three pairs of stones per end; the first individual to amass thirteen points was the winner.[5] Although there was no indication how the doubles competition was conducted, it is probable that each of the four competitors threw two pairs of rocks per end alternately with his partner, for a perdetermined number of ends or until one team had reached a certain scoring total. The points game thoroughly tested the "shotmaking" of even the most competent curler. In this event the maximum possible score that could be achieved was seventy-two, two points being awarded for each of four shots "in striking, wicking, drawing, guarding, chap and lie, wick and curl in, raising, drawing a port, and chipping the winner."[6]

Inter-club competitions and bonspiels became more prevalent during this era as the number of curlers increased and as modes of transportation improved. Where two clubs existed within close proximity Christmas Day and New Year's Day were favorite occasions for inter-club matches. Often these matches would launch a new season and were therefore looked forward to with great anticipation. At Calgary on the morning of New Year's Day, 1908, eight quartettes from the Victoria Curling Club upset eight teams from the Calgary Curling Club by an aggregate score of ninety-eight to sixty-three.[7] A year later at Edmonton on Christmas Day, seven rinks from the Strathcona Curling Club, seven from the Granite Curling Club, and six from the Capital Curling Club engaged in combat. The Strathcona Curling Club emerged victorious with a 4-2-1 won-loss-draw record.[8]

Challenge trophies and the district competition within the Alberta branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club (R.C.C.C.) evoked more sophisticated inter-club curling action. Some of the prominent challenge trophies in the Alberta area were the Wallace Cup, donated by R.A. Wallace, M.L.A., and the Hunter-Macmillan Cup which were fervently contested by the Priddis and Millarville clubs for several years after the turn of the century;[9] the Piccadilly Cup, presented by H.E. Bond and Company, which was open for competition to clubs from Edmonton, Strathcona, and Wetaskiwin;[10] the White Cup, contributed by W.H. White, M.P., for competition in the Vermilion-Vegreville-Fort Saskatchewan federal constituency;[11] the Alberta Lumber Company's trophy which was open to all Edmonton clubs;[12] the Weiser Red Letter Cup which was open to the challenge of any club in Alberta;[13] and the Ash Brothers Cup which was conferred to the Alberta Curling Association in 1918 as a perpetual challenge trophy for all clubs affiliated with that organisation.[14] The most celebrated of these challenge trophies was the Weiser Red Letter Cup. Presented during the 1912 Alberta branch bonspiel, it represented a two-rink, sixteen-end competition. That is, both the defending and the challenging clubs delegated two teams and the total score of two simultaneous sixteen-end games determined the victor.[15] Because it was a provincial trophy much prestige was attached to its possession and consequently, competition for it was intense. For instance, in the course of the 1916-1917 season the Weiser Cup was contested fifteen times by thirteen different clubs: Claresholm, Vulcan, Nanton, High River, Okotoks, Stavely, Calgary Civic, Calgary Granite, Olds, Red Deer, Calgary Thistle, Coronation, and Innisfail.[16]

Curling was organized within the Alberta area in January of 1904, during Calgary's tenth annual bonspiel, when the Alberta branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland was formed. James "Cappy" Smart was elected the first president and the rules of the Manitoba branch of the R.C.C.C. were adopted.[17] Inaugurated in 1905, the Alberta branch bonspiel, which was also referred to as the provincial bonspiel, became one of the premier gatherings of Alberta curlers. It was held at Calgary from 1905-1910,[18] in 1912,[19] and from 1914-1918.[20] Edmonton hosted this spiel in 1911 and 1913.[21]

In December, 1905, the Alberta branch divided its jurisdictional territory into seven regions and instituted district, which was in essence inter-club, competition.[22] The rules specified that all matches were to be double-team affairs. This contestation culminated each year at the provincial bonspiel when the regional winners played off for the district trophy. By 1913 the number of regions had been increased to twelve.[23] In 1914 the district format was altered when the D.E. Black trophy event, a double-rink competition, and the Premier trophy event, a single-rink competition, were introduced at the provincial spiel. Both of these new events were open to all member clubs in Alberta although only one representation per club was allowed in each competition.[24]

As it is today, the bonspiel was the lifeblood of curling during the 1900-1918 era. A club's season was not considered successful if at least one bonspiel was not held. It was here that devotees of the "roaring game" congregated from far and near, not only to curl, but to enjoy the social aspect of the sport. The custom whereby the host club feted visiting rinks to banquets and evenings of social entertainment prevailed. It was not unusual for teams to travel hundreds of miles to compete in a bonspiel. The 1911 provincial bonspiel which took place at Edmonton attracted twenty outside foursomes from as far away as Medicine Hat, Macleod, Banff, and Yorkton, Sask.[25] Transportation expenses to the larger bonspiels were mitigated by the railroad companies who frequently offered one-way rates return for both curlers and spectators. In 1906 the executive of the Alberta branch negotiated the following travel agreement with the Canadian Pacific Railway for the provincial bonspiel which was held at Calgary. From any point between Revelstoke, B.C., and Dunmore junction, and on the north and south branch lines, a one-way rate return was given. From points east of Dunmore to Indian

Head, Sask., fare and one-third was charged for a return ticket.[26]

Bonspiels lasted anywhere from two to fourteen days depending on their magnitude – the number of events contested and the number of rinks entered; and the weather. A chinook would sometimes necessitate delays in and/or postponements of bonspiels. The core bonspiel events usually consisted of open, visitors' and/or consolation, and points competitions. At the 1910 Vegreville bonspiel, which was staged under the auspices of the Heather Curling Club, three open events – the Grand Challenge, Merchants' Cup, and Professional Shield – plus a consolation event and a points competition were contested.[27] Prizes, donated by merchants, businessmen, companies, individuals, and municipal governments,[28] were awarded to the top four teams in each event and to a varying number of curlers in the points game. Contributors felt that the award system was an excellent advertising avenue for them and/or their community. At the 1904 Edmonton bonspiel, prizes in the Grand Challenge event included the Alberta Brewing and Malting Company Shield, four gold lockets valued at $100, four pieces of cut glass valued at fifty dollars, four pair of boots valued at twenty dollars, and 200 LaPalma cigars valued at sixteen dollars.[29] Nine years later the Edmonton bonspiel offered $2,500 in prizes in addition to eight event trophies.[30]

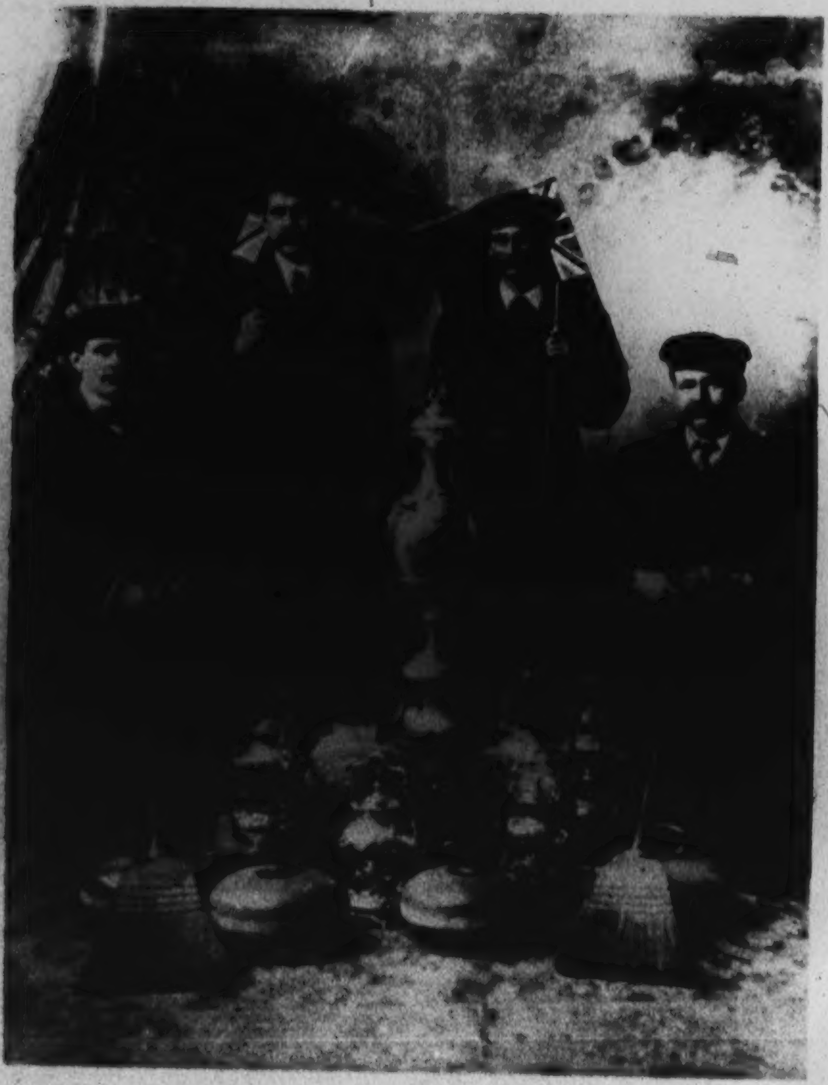

Figure 11. Winning curlers at Innisfail, early 1900s.

By the second decade of this century, the administrative authority of the Alberta branch of the R.C.C.C. was no longer meeting the needs of all curling clubs in the province. This was first manifested in 1912 when the Crow's Nest Curling Association was formed as a branch of the R.C.C.C.[31] Since the newspapers did not report any enmity between clubs along the Crow's Nest Pass Railway and the Calgary-dominated Alberta branch, it is probable that the Crow's Nest branch was organized as a result of geographical considerations. It encompassed clubs from Medicine Hat in the east to Cranbrook, B.C., in the west.[32]

North of Red Deer between 1910 and 1914 there developed an agitation among curling clubs for the formation of a Northern Alberta governing body distinct from the Alberta branch. These clubs, particularly those in the Edmonton district, were disgruntled by Calgary's regulatory influence over the Alberta branch, which was best exemplified by the fact that the provincial bonspiel had been held in Calgary each year from 1905-1910. The earliest action which demonstrated the animosity felt by the northern curlers occurred in 1914, when all clubs north of Red Deer boycotted the provincial bonspiel which took place that year in Calgary.[33] It appears as if this incompatibility between curlers in the Calgary and Edmonton areas was simply caused by jealousy on the part of the northern clubs. This is reflected by the fact that in 1913 eleven Calgary rinks attended the provincial bonspiel at Edmonton[34] and in 1914, at the annual meeting of the Alberta branch, a motion was passed "that in future Alberta bonspiels will be held alternately in Calgary and Edmonton, even as has been the custom for the past few years (since 1910)...."[35]

After 1914, however, curling clubs north of Red Deer pertinaciously refused to recognize the Alberta branch and consequently Calgary curlers had no alternative but to continue their dominance of this association. Finally, at the Edmonton bonspiel of 1917 the northern clubs united and formally launched the Alberta Curling Association (A.C.A.).[36] The formative resolution read as follows:

> Resolved that this meeting of delegates representing the following curling clubs – Fort Saskatchewan, Edson, Coronation, Chauvin, Vegreville, Vermilion, Lloydminster, Daysland, Mannville, Lacombe, Provost, Camrose, Viking, Wainwright, Ribstone, Wetaskiwin, Tofield, Highlands, Strathcona, Capital, and Royal (the last four of Edmonton) – do hereby decide and agree to proceed to organize a curling association to be called the Alberta Curling Association, the object of which shall be to promote the game of curling in the Province of Alberta, and particularly in that portion of the province lying to the north of the town of Red Deer, and also the adjoining territory, and to unite all the clubs within this territory into one organization, to hold fraternal intercourse with neighboring curling associations and to maintain connection with the Royal Caledonian Curling Club.[37]

The A.C.A. was an immediate success. At Edmonton in February of 1918 ninety-one rinks, including forty-five from centers outside of the capital, attended the initial A.C.A. bonspiel, making it the largest spiel ever held west of Winnipeg.[38]

There were some outstanding curlers in the Alberta area during this era who distinguished themselves on the interprovincial curling scene. At this time the Winnipeg bonspiel was Canada's largest and most prestigious curling competition. There, in 1909, the Sam Savage foursome of Calgary finished second in the Dingwall event, while the T. Trimble rink from Lacombe reached the finals in the Empire and the semi-finals in the Tetley Tea event.[39] Two years later at the Winnipeg spiel, the Archie McKillop quartette from Calgary assumed the favorite's role after they had surged into the lead in all the open competitions with a 16-1 won-loss record.[40] Unfortunately a vertebral injury sidelined McKillop[41] and caused the disruption of his team's momentum. McKillop and his teammates – J. McGuffin (third), Sam Savage (second), and J.R. Miquelon (lead) – finished with seventeen wins and seven losses.[42] In 1912 artificial ice was introduced in Canada by the Vancouver Curling Club. That year at Vancouver's inaugural bonspiel, Alberta rinks won three of the five events. Sam Savage's foursome from Calgary captured the Kelly-Douglas Tankard event, and the DeMille rink from Priddis won both the Rat Portage and the Kilmer Consolation events.[43] At the West Coast tournament in 1913, Savage won the grand aggregate by taking first in the P. Burns and third in the Grand Challenge competition.[44]

At the provincial bonspiel the team that won the grand aggregate, in other words, the team that finished with the best won-loss standing in the four open events, was acclaimed the Alberta champions. Over the years the winning rinks were skipped by: 1905, unknown; 1906, Sam Savage, Calgary;[45] 1907, J. Bruce, Lethbridge; 1908, E.J. Fletcher, Calgary; 1909, J.R. Miquelon, Calgary; 1910, H.M. Tribble, Lacombe; 1911, Archie McKillop, Calgary; 1912, D.C. Bayne, Banff; 1913, H. Poile, High River; 1914, Savage, Calgary; 1915, Savage, Calgary; 1916, Bayne, Banff; 1917, Poile, High River; and 1918, McKillop, Calgary.[46]

Evidence from the newspapers indicates that curling was second only to ice hockey as the most popular winter participant sport. After 1900 curling developed apace in direct relationship with the increase in population of the Alberta region. During the 1902-1903 season, Edmonton's lone curling club consisted of approximately 100 members[47] who boasted a three-sheet indoor rink.[48] That year the Edmonton bonspiel attracted sixteen foursomes.[49] Eleven seasons later sixty-four teams attended this spiel, which was held indoors on nineteen sheets of ice at Edmonton's four clubs: Capital City, Royal Caledonian, Highland, and Strathcona.[50] At Calgary in 1905 devotees of the "roaring game" curled in the four-sheet Alberta Rink, which was also known during this period as the Vaudette Theatre.[51] In the ensuing six years the number of curlers in Calgary increased so rapidly that by 1911 at the Victoria Curling Club alone, seventeen sheets of indoor ice were kept in constant demand.[52]

These seventeen curling lanes represented the greatest number to be controlled by any one club in North America.[53] At the same time, the number of quartettes participating in Red Deer's annual bonspiel grew from twenty-four in 1911[54] to forty in 1915.[55]

There is little doubt that exuberance for the sport abounded. On one occasion at Swalwell in the final game between the "president's side" and the "other half", the losers to buy supper, it looked as if the "other half" would have to pay up.

> Harris Webb was skipping this rink and they were away down to start with but he started to pick up a three and a four and then another four, this being reported by runners to the village.
>
> It was too much – they couldn't stand the pressure. The stores and other places of business were closed and the merchants and customers fled to the rink in time to see Harris come out on top in the last end!!
>
> Foolishness? Perhaps, but what a wonderful esprit-de-corps it created.[56]

There were numerous factors which aided the development of curling. Among these were the widespread building of indoor rinks; improved railway transportation; and the adoption of the sport by the ladies. At the turn of the century, curling was one activity which liberal-minded women throughout the Dominion used to promote their crusade for equality. This was in evidence at Edmonton in February, 1900, when two matches took place, the first between teams of single ladies and married ladies, and the second between a rink of ladies and a team of gentlemen, the latter who had never curled before and who were, in addition, restricted to the use of their left hands.[57] The earliest ladies' curling club in the province was reported at Edmonton in 1909.[58] Three years later the Banff Ladies' Curling Club was formed with thirty to forty members on the roll.[59] Banff was the site of Alberta's first ladies' bonspiel. Held in February of 1913 in conjunction with the men's spiel, four rinks, three from Banff and one from Edmonton, competed for the Frost Cup.[60] Mrs. P. Moore's foursome from the National Park town earned top honors.[61]

The number of clubs and bonspiels featuring the fair sex increased during the War since facilities, for the most part, became more readily available. Edmonton's Royal Victoria Ladies' Curling Club, whose 1915 membership totalled sixty,[62] was the largest and the most progressive. The Calgary Albertan acknowledged that in the future women would be part of the game but added:

> The greatest difficulty that those who are responsible for the ladies learning the game have found is that the ladies cannot sweep the ice strenuously enough. Sweeping a carpet and sweeping the ice at a rink are two very different propositions and the inability of the ladies to 'soop 'er up' have led some men to wonder if women's work in the home is so very hard after all.[63]

Mixed curling was initiated at Calgary in 1911 when four mixed rinks competed in a charity bonspiel at the Victoria Curling Club.[64] In 1918 the C.P.R. Curling Club of Calgary required every team in their club to include at least one lady in their line-up.[65] Elsewhere, the 1917 and 1918 Red Cross bonspiels at Edmonton were thriving mixed affairs.[66]

The First World War had less effect on curling than on most other sports because the game was popular among the older citizens, who were not eligible for War service, and among the ladies. At Calgary, however, members of the Victoria and Civic Curling Clubs were unduly penalized by the War. Their lease on the horse show and agricultural buildings was taken over by the military and this left hundreds of curlers homeless.[67] Temporary facilities utilized by these clubs included outdoor ice, an old icehouse, and a C.P.R. roundhouse.[68]

In Southern Alberta during this era, the climate adversely affected the unfolding status of curling. Artificial ice plants were not introduced into the province until after 1918 and as a result, frequent chinooks fettered the sport's development in the area from Didsbury, approximately, south to the international boundary. For instance, in January, 1904, the Medicine Hat Weekly News stated that "The curling bonspiel has been spoiled by the banana belt weather. This is too bad, for the club had gone to great trouble and had gathered together a fine lot of trophies and prizes."[69] Teams from Calgary and Maple Creek, Sask., had to return home from this abortive spiel without having participated in a single end of competition.[70]

## Footnotes

[1] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1969, p. 171.

[2] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, pp. 64-66.

[3] Macleod Gazette, January 18, 1901 and October 3, 1902.

[4] Ibid., March 18, 1904.

[5] Edmonton Bulletin, January 13, 1902 and Calgary Herald, January 25, 1906.

[6] Edmonton Bulletin, March 13, 1908.

[7] Calgary Albertan, January 2, 1908. Also, see Calgary Herald, January 10, 1907.

[8] Edmonton Bulletin, December 27, 1909.

[9] Calgary Herald, February 22, 1900, January 10, 1901, and March 13, 1902.

[10] Edmonton Bulletin, February 15, 1908 and January 19, 1909.

[11] Ibid., February 9, 1909.

[12] Ibid., December 9, 1909.

[13] Calgary Albertan, January 25, 1912.

[14] Edmonton Bulletin, January 5, 1918.

[15] Calgary Albertan, January 25, 1912.

[16] Ibid., December 29, 1916, January 5, 15, 16, and 22, 1917, February 5, 23, 26, and 28, 1917, and March 2, 6, 9, 13, 15, and 17, 1917.

[17] Calgary Herald, January 28, 1904.

[18] Ibid., January 26, 1905, February 15, 1906, January 24, 1907 and Calgary Albertan, January 27, 1908, January 22, 1909, and January 21, 1910.

[19] Calgary Albertan, January 24, 1912.

[20] Ibid., January 19, 1914, January 20, 1915, January 19, 1916, January 22, 1917, and January 28, 1918.

[21] Edmonton Bulletin, January 23, 1911 and January 20, 1913.

[22] Calgary Herald, December 14, 1905.

[23] Edmonton Bulletin, January 20, 1913.

[24] Calgary Albertan, January 9, 1914.

[25] Edmonton Bulletin, January 17 and 18, 1911. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, February 7, 1905, January 26, 1906, February 22, 1909, February 15, 1916, February 5, 1918; Calgary Herald, March 7, 1901, February 5, 1903, January 24, 1907; Calgary Albertan, January 22, 1909, January 22, 1917; and Lethbridge Herald, January 15, 1917.

[26] Calgary Herald, February 8, 1906.

[27] Edmonton Bulletin, January 6, 1910. Also, see Calgary Albertan, January 9, 1908, January 22, 1914; Edmonton Bulletin, January 26, 1918; and Calgary Herald, February 8 and 15, 1900.

[28] For example, see Edmonton Bulletin, December 4, 1912 and January 28, 1914.

[29] Edmonton Bulletin, February 1, 1904.

[30] Ibid., January 6, 1913.

[31] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, p. 253.

[32] Lethbridge Herald, January 15, 1917.

[33] Calgary Albertan, January 14 and 15, 1914.

[34] Ibid., January 15, 1914.

[35] Ibid., January 19, 1914.

[36] Edmonton Bulletin, February 9, 1917.

[37] Ibid.

[38] Ibid., February 5, 1918.

[39] Calgary Albertan, February 22, 1909.

[40] Ibid., February 15, 1911.

[41] Ibid., February 20, 1911.

[42] Ibid., February 18, 1911.

[43] Ibid., March 28 and 29, 1912.

[44] Ibid., March 25, 1913.

[45] Calgary Herald, February 15, 1906.

[46] "City Curling Club Started Back in 1888," Calgary Herald, August 6, 1932, Provenance: Curling File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[47] Edmonton Bulletin, December 26, 1902 and May 23, 1903.

[48] Ibid., August 25, 1902 and February 1, 1904.

[49] Ibid., January 15, 1903.

[50] Ibid., February 10, 1914.

[51] Calgary Albertan, October 17, 1907 and Calgary Herald, December 20, 1906.

[52] Calgary Albertan, October 24, 1911.

[53] Ibid., February 28, 1912.

[54] Ibid., February 22, 1911.

[55] Edmonton Bulletin, February 3, 1915.

[56] Three Hills Rural Community Group, As the Years Go By ..., Three Hills, Alberta: 1970, p. 181.

[57] Edmonton Bulletin, March 2, 1900.

[58] Ibid., January 21, 1909.

[59] Banff Crag and Canyon, November 30 and December 14, 1912.

[60] Edmonton Bulletin, February 19, 1913.

[61] Banff Crag and Canyon, February 15, 1913.

[62] Edmonton Bulletin, December 4, 1915.

[63] Calgary Albertan, February 11, 1914.

[64] Ibid., February 23, 1911.

[65] Ibid., January 11, 1918.

[66] Edmonton Bulletin, February 21 and 26, 1917 and January 2, 1918.

[67] Ibid., September 17, 1914 and October 28, 1914.

[68] Joe Ferry, Alberta Album of Curling, Calgary: J.L. Ferry, ca. 1965.

[69] Calgary Herald, January 21, 1904. Also, see Calgary Albertan, January 23, 1912.

[70] Calgary Herald, January 21, 1904.

# CHAPTER XIII

# EQUESTRIAN SPORTS

## Gymkhana

The gymkhana was an equestrian carnival which consisted of a wide range of miscellaneous and novelty events for all ages and both sexes. These events were a product of the western, equestrian-based culture which prevailed during the nineteenth century in the future Alberta, and which extended into the twentieth century.

Gymkhana events included the following races: hurdle, needle and thread, Gretna Green, brandy and soda, tent pegging, Victoria Cross, bending, ladies' nomination, fancy dress or costume, apple and bucket or potato and bucket, postilion, cigar and umbrella, barrel, ladies' whistling, and tilting the ring. Wrestling on horeseback, musical chairs, steeplechases, and during the War, mock military battles and military drills, were other equestrian events often held during a gymkhana. Steadfast rules did not govern any of these competitions.

Generally newspaper descriptions of gymkhana events were incomplete. However, the Calgary Herald did provide a detailed report of the conditions governing seven races on the gymkhana program which was staged in conjunction with the second annual Calgary Inter-Western

Pacific Exhibition in 1900.

> 1) Conditions of the brandy and soda race: Start dismounted. Saddle your horse and ride over a hurdle to a table on which will be found tumblers and bottles of soda water. Open the soda water and pour contents into the tumblers, drink, and ride home. 2) Conditions of the Victoria Cross race: Ride over hurdle to Zareba (a dummy soldier). Pick up dummy and ride back. 3) Conditions of the postilion race: Ride one pony and lead a second over four hurdles. 4) Conditions of the bending race: Ride between six flags, turning at the sixth flag, keeping first flag to your right. 5) Conditions of the potato and bucket race: Contestants mount at the word "go", gallop to the first potato, pick it up, ride back, and deposit it in a pail at the starting post. This operation is repeated four times, with the man getting his four potatoes in the pail first being the winner. The four potatoes are positioned fifty, sixty, seventy, and eighty yards, respectively, from the starting post. 6) Conditions of the ladies' nomination race: Ride over first hurdle, and lead over second hurdle to where the ladies are standing. Take parcel from lady and dress yourself in contents. Lead back over first hurdle, and ride home over second hurdle. 7) Conditions of the cigar and umbrella race: Saddle pony, light cigar, put up umbrella, mount. First rider past flag with cigar alight and umbrella up wins.[1]

During the War, gymkhanas were occasionally held in the major cities of Alberta in an effort to raise money for various War-related funds. But the gymkhana, by itself, was not a frequent sporting event at any time during this era. Instead, gymkhana-type contests were most often included in the programs of race meets, military sports competitions, cowboy sports competitions, picnic and holiday sports, horse shows, rodeos, and agricultural fairs.

## Horse and Harness-Horse Racing

At the turn of the century, horse and harness-horse racing was one of the most popular sports, from both participant and spectator points of view, in the Alberta area. This was chiefly due to the fact that the horse was an integral part of the way of life. In addition to sport, the horse was used for labor, hunting, transportation, and barter. In sport, challenge races, turf clubs, and turf associations were almost as old as the settlements themselves. The Alberta Turf Association was formed in October, 1885,[2] when the population of that part of the Northwest Territories now included in Alberta stood at 15,553.[3] Turf clubs were organized in all the major centers of this region in the 1880s and 1890s. Perhaps the first such club formed was at Pincher Creek in 1882.[4]

The principal function of the turf club was to stage the annual local and district race meet, which was the most popular form of equestrian racing. Throughout Alberta during the first decade of this century, and particularly in the rural areas of the province between 1910 and 1918, the race meet was also the social event of the year. Thomas stated that:

> Everyone in the country who could, attended the meets, driving or riding for miles. Sometimes they stayed with friends in the vicinity; sometimes in their enthusiasm they camped. Everyone met everyone else, for the race-meetings were like large family parties. Sometimes the meets were one-day affairs, often they lasted longer. Almost invariable the Race Club held a Ball which everyone attended.[5]

A typical race meet at the turn of the century was sponsored by the Macleod Agricultural Society on July 17 and 18, 1901. Eleven events at this meeting offered prize money which totalled $1,950.[6] Following were the events and their purses.

> 1) Three minute trot or pace, 3 in 5, $150. 2) 3/4 mile dash, open, $150. 3) 3/8 mile dash, ponies 14.2 and under, 2 in 3, $100. 4) 3/4 mile dash Alberta bred, $150. 5) 2.20 trot or pace, open, $250. 6) 5/8 mile dash for 2-year-olds, Alberta bred allowed 5 pounds, $100. 7) Indian race, 1 mile. 8) 2.30 trot or pace, $200. 9) 5/8 mile dash, open, $150. 10) 5/8 mile dash, 160 lbs., gentlemen's saddle horses, Alberta bred owned on or before the 1st of May, 1901, $100. 11) Free-for-all trot or pace, 3 in 5, $400. 12) One mile dash, open, $200. 13) Indian race, one mile, winner and 2nd horse of first day (race #7) barred.[7]

The conditions for the above races included: four to enter, three to start; entrance fee ten per cent of purse; any horse distancing the field entitled to first money only; National Trotting Association rules to govern trotting events; American Racing Rules to govern running events; trotting purses divided 60, 25, 15; running purses divided 75, 25; horses eligible to start in any class on June 1st, are eligible to start in same class at this meeting.[8]

As the race meet evolved in Alberta it became highly professional. Many of the larger towns and cities began to hold two race meetings per season. At the same time, prize money increased yearly. For example, in 1901 the Edmonton Industrial Exhibition race meet offered a $200 purse in the free-for-all event.[9] Three years later, the prize money offered in the same event at the same race meet totalled $1,000.[10] The result of this increase in the number of race meets and in the stakes offered was that more and more horsemen from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the United States began to bring their thoroughbreds into Alberta for the racing season. The race meet had "changed to a business investment for some and a means of livelihood for others."[11]

However, because of the large purses, several obsolete rules, and the lack of any authority to discipline riders, owners, and bookmakers, illegal practices became common at racetracks in the Alberta area. Dishonest horse owners and jockeys, and avaracious bookmakers often defrauded the public. The Bulletin explained the situation at Edmonton in 1912.

> For two or three years the betting public has been robbed by the books which work the local track. The books have, of course, the privilege of giving whatever odds they please on a race but they manipulate the betting in such a manner as to give their customers and the people, who, by their attendance make the races possible, absolutely no chance to win anything at any time. When that is combined with the apparent manipulation of the horses on the track from time to time, it is time that the Association (Edmonton Exhibition Association) did something to prevent a co-operation between books and owners.[12]

To protect the paying public, pari-mutuel machines were introduced into the province. They were first used at the 1911 Calgary[13] and Millarville[14] race meets. In 1913 the Edmonton Exhibition Association purchased ten used pari-mutuel machines from Saratoga, New York, after that state had banned racing.[15] When the public became acquainted with the pari-mutuels, their success was assured. Much more money was bet and the percentage received by the fair associations increased accordingly.

The major organizational step that promoted horse and harness-horse racing during this era, not only in Alberta but also in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, took place in January, 1912, at Regina. Here, the Western Canada Fair and Racing Circuit Association (W.C.F.R.C.A.) was formed to provide uniform racing rules and a circuit with nonconflicting dates. The cities of Brandon, Winnipeg, Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge constituted the inaugural circuit of the W.C.F.R.C.A.[16]

The 1912 W.C.F.R.C.A. program of races and the amount of prize money which was offered in each city included: Calgary, June 28 to July 5, five days' racing, $18,250; Edmonton, August 10 to 17, five days' racing, $21,150; and Lethbridge, August 19 to 24, three days' racing, $3,150.[17] The Calgary Albertan called the complete program "the biggest one as far as stakes are concerned, that was ever held in Canada (up to 1912)."[18] Calgary and Edmonton both offered a $3,000 purse in the Hotel Keepers' Stake, a 2.15 pace or 2.10 trot race.[19]

In the United States by 1912, the "reform wave" had ended major racing everywhere except in Kentucky and Maryland. Track operators in these states used pari-mutuel machines and thus escaped condemnation.[20] Because of the "reform wave", the Western Canada circuit soon became one of the major circuits in North America. In 1913 the W.C.F.R.C.A. opened at Edmonton on May 22 and ran continuously for seventeen weeks. Purses totalled $350,000, which made this the largest amount of money to be offered on any half-mile circuit in either Canada or the U.S.A.[21] A year later the Calgary Albertan reported:

> With 300 horses, owned all the way from Tennessee to Northern Alberta, entered in the harness and running classes at the Calgary exhibition, the race programs at Victoria Park this week will be the most attractive ever given in Western Canada. Some of the well-known performers of the grand circuit are included in the large and classy showing of 200 harness entries, while among the 100 runners are numbered the fleetest gallopers in the western flat racing game.[22]

The W.C.F.R.C.A. was a very strong and efficient organization. In 1915 this association drew up a new set of rules, the Western Fair Circuit Rules, to control running races. These rules embodied all that was best in the regulations of both the Ontario Jockey Club of Toronto and the Kentucky State Racing Commission, with such modifications as were necessary to suit Western Canadian conditions.[23] A year later, the Edmonton and Calgary exhibition associations were given permission by the W.C.F.R.C.A. to experiment with the new method of deciding harness-horse races, as adopted by the American Trotting Association rules committee.[24] Instead of the old best three-in-five system, the new method called for a three-heat formula, with every heat a race. According to this new method, a trotter or pacer who won one heat, even though he finished out of the money in the other heats, got a first-place share of the purse. In 1917 the W.C.F.R.C.A. adopted this new method.[25] This made harness racing more exciting because it prevented drivers, who conceded victory, from holding back on their horses, since there was second and third-place prize money to be won in each heat.

Many factors contributed to the establishment of Alberta as a mecca for horse and harness-horse racing from 1912 to 1918. The formation of the W.C.F.R.C.A., the "reform wave" in the U.S.A., and the rapid expansion of railways throughout the province which facilitated transportation were three of the foremost factors. But two elements underlaid all others. These were the warm winter climate of Southern Alberta and the settlement of British aristocracy in the foothills of the same area.

Because of the chinook winds during the winter months, the High River-Calgary region was, and still is, especially suited for the breeding, rearing, and training of thoroughbred horses. During the winter of 1913-1914 in Calgary alone, sixty horses were put into shape for the 1914 spring and summer campaigns.[26] Also, for a number of years, George Haag of Calgary owned "General H" and was part of a Calgary syndicate that owned "Alberta". These horses were two of the finest trotters in the world and competed regularly on the Grand Circuit, America's "big league" of sulky racing.

The influence of the British aristocracy, who established numerous large ranches in the Southern Alberta foothills during the late nineteenth century, is often ignored. But it was this small minority group who, in an attempt to live the life of English gentry, imported fine thoroughbred racing stock and who, because of their affluence, were able to establish a high class of thoroughbred race horse.

Although the most popular form, the race meet was not the only manner of horse and harness-horse racing during this era. Challenge or match races, which were the most rudimentary form, frequently took place. A match race usually resulted following a discussion between individual horse owners regarding the relative merits of their horses. Time, place, and bet were then arranged and the news, which was spread far and near, brought out excited onlookers, many of whom were eager to bet on their favorites. It was not uncommon for the two competitors to wager $1,000 a side.[27]

More common than the challenge races were the equestrian racing programs which were an integral part of practically all sports' days and picnics. These programs varied from community to community and from one sports' day or picnic to the next. Sports' days were in vogue to celebrate national, provincial, and local holidays, while picnics were popular among church, ethnic, school, and farmer groups and organizations.

Ice trotting was a fourth form of harness-horse racing which was participated in. Because it lacked widespread appeal, and due to the unreliability of the Southern Alberta winters, ice trotting was primarily restricted to the larger centers of Central Alberta. At Edmonton ice trotting races were reported in the winters of 1903-1904, 1904-1905, 1906-1907, 1907-1908, 1910-1911, and 1913-1914.[28] In the south, ice harness-horse races were held on Henderson Lake at Lethbridge in 1913[29] and on Chestermere Lake near Calgary about 1907[30] and again in 1914.[31] Most often, ice trotting races were held under the auspices of driving clubs. Although driving clubs were organized to promote matinee harness events throughout the year, these clubs flourished only sporadically.

The effect of the War on horse and harness-horse racing in Alberta was twofold. First, the purses offered at most race meets were reduced to approximately one-half of what they had been in 1914. As a result the quality of the racing declined, since many horse owners could no longer afford to freight their horses as many miles as they had in the pre-War years. Secondly, the need for cavalry mounts in World War I saw a sudden upsurge in light horse breeding. In 1917 a group of Calgary and district horsemen, who were interested in the improvement of the thoroughbred and the half-bred horse, organized the Alberta Thoroughbred Horse Association.[32] This group established several breeders' stakes and worked with the various exhibition associations to improve the quality of horse and harness-horse racing in the province.

On June 7, 1917, by virtue of the provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, a Federal order-in-council prohibited betting at all race tracks in Canada as of August 1, 1917, for the duration of the War and for six months after the conclusion of the War.[33] The effect of this order-in-council on horse and harness-horse racing in Alberta was negligible. Public support of this sport was so great that exhibition and fair associations boldly, and successfully, continued to sponsor race meets offering purses similar to previous War years in all stake races. Therefore in 1918, the W.C.F.R.C.A. expanded within Alberta and scheduled race meets that year for Edmonton (Class A), Calgary (Class A), Red Deer (Class B), Camrose (Class B), Lethbridge (Class B), and Medicine Hat (Class B).[34]

## Hunt Clubs

In the late nineteenth century, adventurous English gentry and aristocrats settled in the southern foothills region of the future Alberta. Here this élite group of Englishmen introduced several sporting activities which were peculiar to their homeland. Among them were polo and the hunt. Enthusiastic horsemen saw how the coyote, the "reynard of Western Canada," could be made to furnish sport in the same way that the fox did in England. A hunt club for pursuing coyotes was active at Pincher Creek as early as 1886 when the Quorn Ranch was established to raise hunters for the Quorn Hunt at Market Harborough in Leicestershire, England.[35]

In the early twentieth century, the Calgary Herald reported that wolf hunting was a popular amusement in the Millarville district and that, in 1903, a hunt club had been formed there.[36] Two years later a coyote hunt south of the Cypress Hills, utilizing eighteen hounds, was an overwhelming success.[37] But the best known, and also the most active, hunt club in the Alberta area during this era was the Calgary Hunt Club. The earliest hunt club to be formed in the orthodox manner, the Calgary club grew from a membership of twelve in its initial year of operation, 1908, to just under 100 members by 1912.[38] Situated seven miles from Calgary, the Sarcee Indian Reserve was the favorite hunting ground of the Calgary club. It was ideal country for the sport, being fence-free and very passable for cross-country riding while furnishing excellent cover for the coyote.

A distinctive breed of hounds, called the "coyote" hound, was used. They were a cross between a Russian wolfhound and the English hare-hunting greyhound.[39] The most common mount employed for a good day's hunt was a strong, sure-footed pony. Blood horses were never used. Being high-strung, they were ill-suited for the conditions often encountered.[40] To encourage the breeding of horses of the good hunter type, the Calgary Hunters' Improvement Association was formed in 1909.[41]

Following is a description of a typical hunt.

> After leaving the club (Calgary Hunt Club) stables, the club made its way to Burns' pasture on the Macleod Trail, where they found right away, and after a short sharp run the dogs landed their quarry.
>
> The master presented the mask and brush to Mrs. Burns. The huntsman (Lambert) then took the dogs along the coulees to the south, and after a short ride another coyote was put up. Lambert got the dogs away quickly, and this proved to be the best run of the season, over an open country, up and down coulees, for twenty minutes of the hardest kind of going, in which the ladies particularly distinguished themselves by their hard riding, before the dogs killed. This mask and brush the master presented to Miss Ellis, bringing a most enjoyable afternoon's sport to a close.[42]

Ladies played an important role, not only in the above hunt, but in all hunt clubs.

## Polo

Polo was introduced into Western Canada by Captain Edmond W. Wilmot, of the Alberta Ranch Company near Pincher Creek, sometime between 1883 and 1886.[43] The setting was ideal. Among the foothills of this region were scattered large cattle ranches owned and operated by rich English stock who were well acquainted with the game of polo and equitation in general. The foothills and prairies of the Southern Alberta area were unfenced; the horsemen were among the best in the world; and the breed of horse, although small, was wiry, game, and sure-footed. Being a game which requires expert horsemanship, polo seized the predilection of all young riders and rapidly became a popular participant sport. Moreover, the social aspect of the game was not forgotten and sizable gatherings of men, ladies, and children viewed the matches. During the 1890s, Southern Alberta became the "polo capital of Canada,"[44] an honor this region retained until World War I.

By 1903 there were polo teams at Macleod, Calgary, Sheep Creek (Millarville), Fish Creek (Priddis), Pekisko, Pincher Creek, North Fork, High River, and Beaver Creek.[45] To the north polo had spread to Edmonton, for in August, 1903, a club was formed there.[46] The most common type of competition in polo was the tournament. These were social, gay, and festive affairs. Families "complete with ponies, buckboards, democrats and even wagons would make the long drive to the tournaments to meet, watch, play and dance."[47] The tournaments usually lasted two or three days until the winning team or teams were decided.

Most historians have characterized polo as a rich man's game. Indeed it was. Besides maintaining a large string of ponies, Southern Alberta's best teams travelled annually to Manitoba or Eastern Canada in search of competition. The cost of freighting the ponies alone was a tremendous financial expense. The year-end polo balls furnish further evidence of the synonymy between polo and the rich for these galas "were gatherings of smartly groomed ladies and gentlemen in clothes that carried unmistakable evidence of Bond Street tailoring."[48]

Although it was the affluent, aristocratic set from England that promoted the sport, polo was a cheap form of entertainment for many a ranchhand. In 1912 Leo Thwaite wrote:

> ... a well-known English polo-player said recently, 'A man can take a trip out to Southern Alberta and spend the season playing polo, do a little fishing and hunting, and still not spend more than it costs him merely to exist in some places I have been in.' Ponies suitable for the game may be purchased at prices well within the reach of any moderately successful man, and the field on which to practise may be found on the prairie itself, practically on the confines of any town.[49]

As mentioned previously, each year at least one team of Southern Alberta poloists journeyed a vast distance in an attempt to establish their supremacy over other fledgling North American polo clubs. In spite of the fact that these teams were playing away from home, they were always rated highly and performed very creditably. At the Toronto exhibition in 1903, Calgary defeated all Eastern Canadian opposition before they were narrowly defeated by Rochester, New York, in a match for the Canada Cup.[50] A year later, the Northwest Freebooters, a team from the Calgary district, defeated the Toronto Hunt Club 3-2 at Sunlight Park in Toronto.[51]

The Western Canada Polo Association was organized at a meeting in Calgary in 1905. This association, which affiliated with the eastern polo organization which included the Kingston, Toronto, and Montreal clubs, was formed in order that thorough control could be exercised over every detail of the sport as well as to facilitate trade in the hardy western polo pony.[52] Later the same year, High River won the International and Canadian championship tournament, which took place in Toronto, by defeating Rochester 13-1, Toronto 10-7, and Buffalo 12-4. The Toronto Globe related the High River-Rochester clash in the following terms.

> The High River team, champions of the North West and incidentally of Canada, had their opening game against Rochester, defeating the latter thirteen goals to one. There were anticipations of international happenings. It was known that Rochester are whole-souled players out of the most sporting valley over which the soaring eagle spreads its wings, and that they ride extravagant thoroughbreds with gloss on their coats like sheen on silk. It was known too that the High River men came from a spot scarcely findable on the Canadian prairie map, that thrived because of the hospitality of its original men, and that they ride ponies as ignorant of pedigrees, as their ribs are of the tickle of the curry combs.[53]

The High River team comprised George Ross, Harry Robertson, Ted Norton, and Marston Sexsmith. Southern Alberta failed to retain the Canadian championship at the Montreal tournament in 1906 when Calgary was surprisingly defeated, 7-2, by Toronto.[54]

By this time the quality of Alberta polo ponies had become known throughout the polo-playing world and a market for them existed in Eastern Canada, England, and South Africa. Except for the very best, many were sold. In 1907 Osborne E. Brown, a Calgary rancher, received an order for forty polo ponies which he sold for an average price of $250.[55] Three years later, prior to his death, Justin Deane-Freeman sold one of his ponies, "Bobs", to a California follower of the sport for $1,000.[56]

The donation of new trophies in 1907, 1909, and 1912 stimulated the growth of polo in Western Canada. C.G. Chipman, manager of Winnipeg's Hudson's Bay Company, donated the Chipman Cup, which became emblematic of the Western Canadian championship, in 1907.[57] In 1909 Earl Winterton, then one of England's rising politicians and a well-known sportsman, offered the Winterton Cup as a challenge trophy for polo teams throughout Canada.[58] Both of these trophies were to be contested annually in Winnipeg. The Osler Cup was donated by H.F. Osler in 1912 and was a Western Canada challenge trophy. The holders of this Cup were to defend it on their home grounds.[59] These three trophies spent a lot of time in Southern Alberta prior to the War. High River won the Chipman Cup in 1907,[60] while Pincher Creek captured the Chipman Cup and Pekisko the Winterton Cup in 1909.[61] Then in 1912, an exceptionally fine riding and hitting quartette from the North Fork Polo Club travelled to Winnipeg and returned with all three Cups – the Chipman, Winterton, and Osler. North Fork also won the British Columbia championship that year by defeating Kelowna.[62] Bert Connelly, Harry Gunn, Rollo Burn, and Harry Evans were the members of this champion North Fork team.[63] The Osler Cup remained in Southern Alberta in 1913 and 1914, at Cochrane[64] and Fish Creek[65]

**Figure 12.** An ice trotting race on the Elbow River at Calgary, 1906.

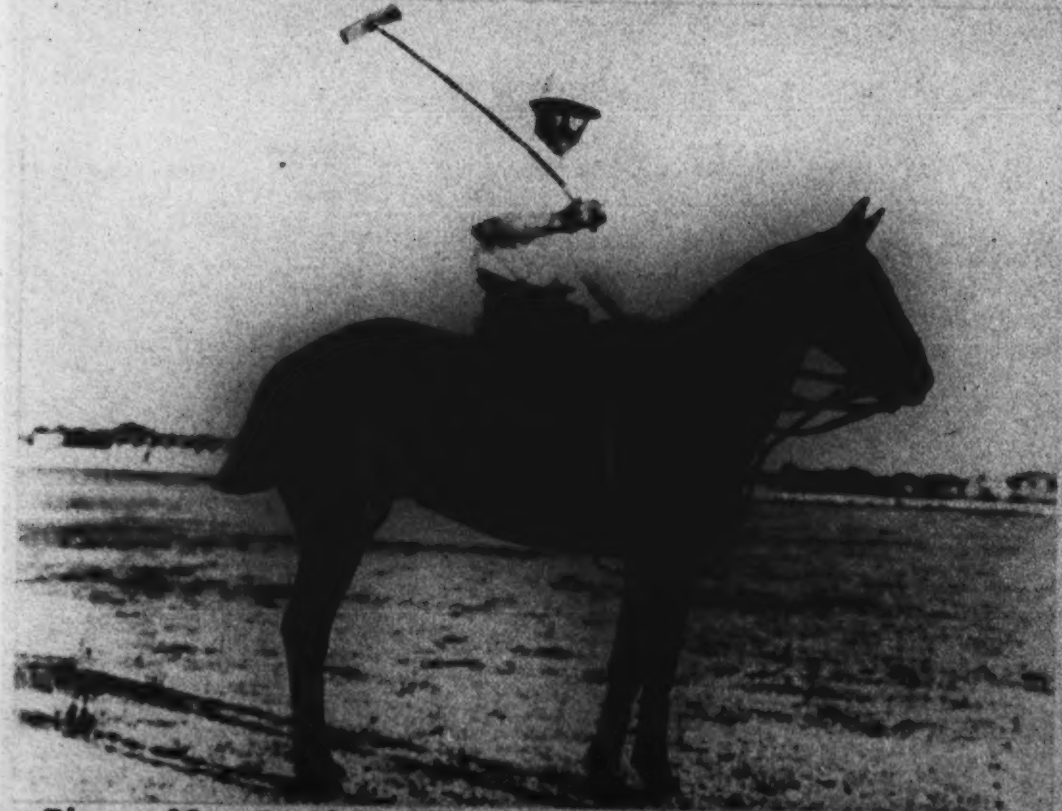

**Figure 13.** Justin Deane-Freeman, the noted Millarville poloist who lost his life in a polo mishap at San Diego, California in 1910.

Figure 14. Fairgrounds and racetrack at Didsbury, 1909.

Figure 15. The 1912 North Fork polo team, champions of Western Canada.

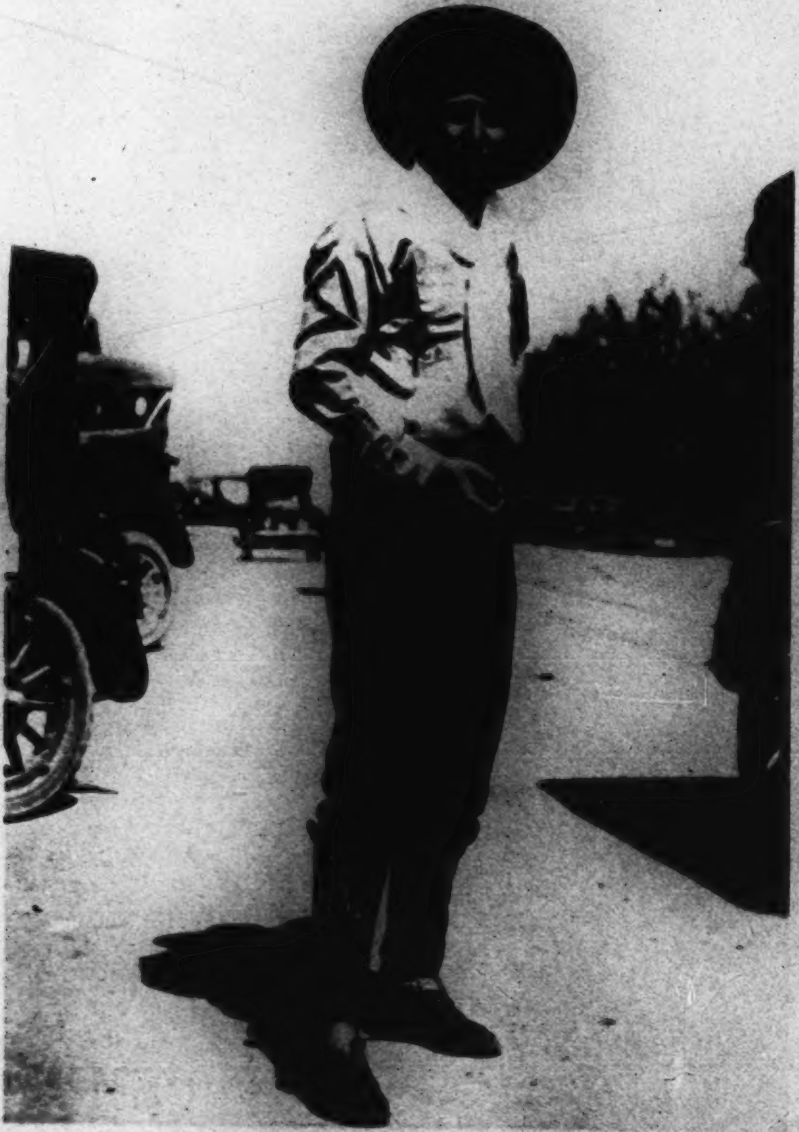

Figure 16. Tom Three Persons of the Blood Indian Reservation, winner of the saddle bronc riding event at the first Calgary Stampede, 1912.

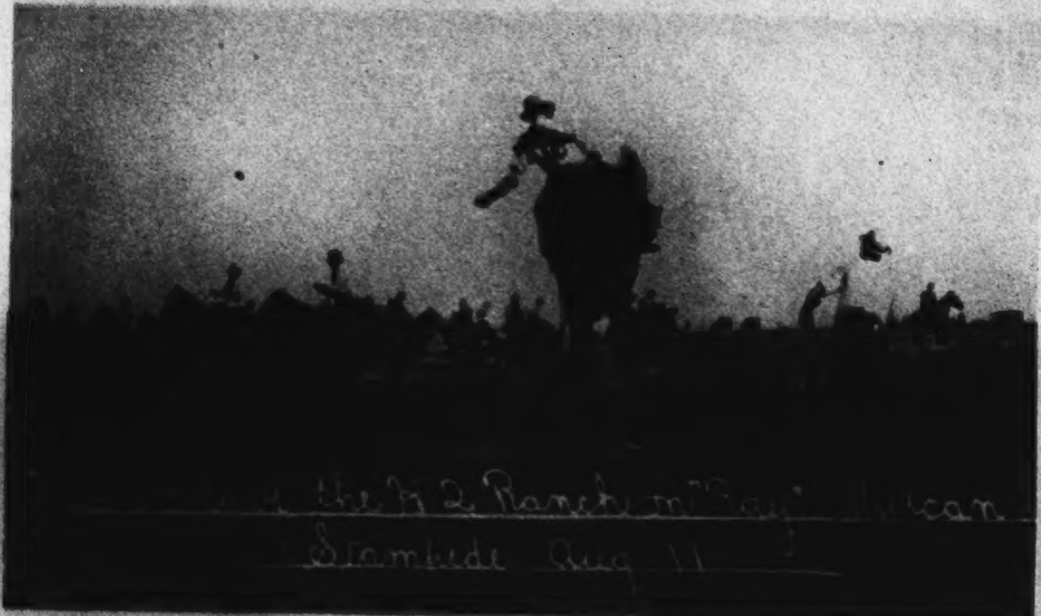
the N 2 Ranch
Stambede Aug 11

Figure 17. A bucking horse at the 1915 Vulcan Stampede.

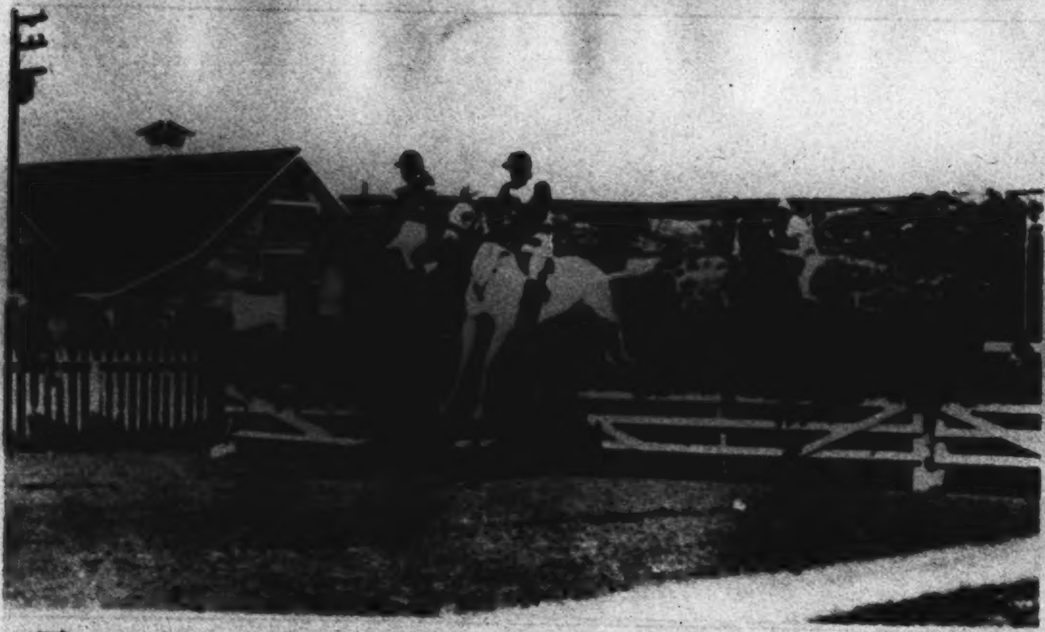

Figure 18. A hurdle race on the exhibition grounds at Calgary, 1909.

respectively.

Prior to the winter of 1909-1910, some of Calgary's most skilled poloists were lured to California to train polo ponies and to play in winter tournaments there. All were influenced by George Ross, the former High River and Calgary star, who had taken an active interest in the promotion of polo in that state. For three winters — 1910-1911,[66] 1911-1912,[67] and 1912-1913[68] — a Calgary team represented Alberta, and all of Canada, in California winter polo play. The Alberta team was always a threat to win. On February 13, 1912, the Calgary Albertan reported, in a bulletin from Pasadena, that the Calgary polo team had won the California championship by defeating Santa Barbara 15-2.[69] Tragically, it was also in California that Alberta lost one of its greatest polo players. In March, 1910, Justin Deane-Freeman was fatally injured in a polo game at the Coronado Country Club, San Diego.[70]

Following their conquest of Western Canada in 1912, the North Fork Polo Club turned their sights southward. A North Fork team travelled to Spokane in 1913 and entered a tournament which was billed as the "championship of North America."[71] An article which appeared in the Calgary Herald in 1935 elaborated on this competition.

> They (North Fork) had a "string of ponies" — 17 in all, with one man in attendance. Their shaggy, wiry little bodies brought forth more than one derisive comment as they stood near the glossy, silk-like hides of the American ponies.

> But they were trained to endurance, their riders were honest-to-goodness western cowmen, and this is why they won through to the finals, losing to Portland by only a quarter of a point.[72]

The War reduced the status of polo to one of near extinction as many of Alberta's best players enlisted. Only the North Fork Polo Club, in their locale twenty miles north of Pincher Creek, continued to operate. This club's persistence paid off in both 1918 and 1919, when Captain Jimmie Milvain led his North Fork team to victories at the Western American Championship tournament in Spokane. Others who played on this great North Fork team were Harry Gunn, Jack Graham, Bert Connelly, and Rollo Burn.[73]

## Rodeo

Large cattle ranches were established in the area which was later to be Alberta, especially along the southern foothills and the Oldman, Bow, and Red Deer Rivers and their tributaries, in the late nineteenth century. These ranches found a ready market in British Columbia, Eastern Canada, the U.S.A., and Great Britain for the export of fat cattle and stockers. The cowboy was an indispensable part of this early western culture. Included in his daily duties were horse breaking, range riding, and when necessary, cattle roping. During their leisure hours and particularly during roundups, cowboys competed in various facets of their daily routines. Steer roping and bronco riding were the most common competitions.

The popularity of cowboy sporting events grew quickly. During the period under examination these events were often staged in conjunction with race meets, fairs and exhibitions, gymkhanas, picnics, and holiday celebrations. Cash prizes were in vogue; for instance, at the High River exhibition in 1902, $100 and $75 were put forward as the prize money for roping contests and for bronco busting respectively.[74]

Rodeos, public entertainment in which the most exciting features of the roundup are presented, were common in the United States at the turn of the century. In the Alberta area, the first organized rodeo took place at Raymond in 1903.[75] It was produced under the direction of Ray Knight, who dubbed it "the Stampede".[76] "No prize money was paid, at this, the first stampede; all contestants riding just for the fun and glory (and a few side bets)."[77]

To a great extent, rodeos were the result of an expanding mythology of what the west once was like. As this mythology grew, so did the popularity of rodeos. The premier event at all rodeos was the bronco riding. In this contest a wild bronco would be snubbed to a strong, reliable range horse, blindfolded, and saddled. The bronco was then led to the rodeo area where a contestant would mount. The blindfold was then removed and the horse let loose. Hazers attempted to keep the bucking bronco within the grounds area while the cowboy endeavored to ride the bronco out. Both time and style were considered by the judges in determining a winner.

One of the greatest and most colorful rodeos ever staged, and the original Calgary Stampede, was held at Calgary in September, 1912. The first Stampede was the "brainchild" of Guy Weadick, an American cowboy, who was the planner, the promoter, and the producer. Backed by four Alberta cattlemen – George Lane, A.E. Cross, Pat Burns, and A.J. McLean – who were known as the "Big Four" and who collectively guaranteed expenditures up to $100,000, the Stampede attracted the best cowboys and cowgirls from all over the U.S.A. and Mexico.[78] Moreover, the best rodeo stock in the U.S.A. and Canada, which included A.P. Day's string of broncos from Medicine Hat,[79] was freighted to Calgary for the big show.

The Stampede opened on Labor Day, Monday, September 2, and ran throughout the week. Its success is attested to by statistics. Approximately 75,000 people witnessed the opening day parade at a time when Calgary's total population was less than 62,000. And despite inclement weather, the six-day show grossed $125,000.[80]

Fifteen primary rodeo events were contested at the initial Calgary Stampede. They were:

1. Fancy and trick riding by cowgirls.
2. Stage coach race.
3. Roping of steers by cowboys.
4. Cowgirls relay race.
5. Bareback bucking horse riding by cowboys.

6. Steer bulldogging contest by cowboys.
7. Fancy roping by cowgirls.
8. Fancy roping by cowboys.
9. Cowboy relay race.
10. Riding of bucking horse by cowgirls.
11. Riding of bucking horse by cowboys.
12. Steer riding by cowboys.
13. Indian relay race.
14. Wild horse race.
15. Fancy and trick riding by cowboys.[81]

Since Canadian cowgirls were practically nonexistent at this time, the American girls swept the women's events. In the men's events, two Southern Alberta cowboys saved Alberta, and all of Western Canada, from embarrassment and disgrace. John Mitchell of Medicine Hat won the cowboy's relay race while Tom Three Persons of the Blood Indian Reservation near Cardston won the most prestigious event, the bucking bronco riding (with saddle).[82] In doing so, Three Persons rode "Cyclone", a notorious American outlaw horse, to a standstill. "Cyclone" had never been ridden before,[83] having thrown 127 cowboys in a short career.[84]

The success of the Calgary Stampede led to a rapid increase in rodeos, mainly in Southern Alberta, between 1912 and 1918. Most towns and villages along the southern foothills began to hold annual stampedes. In 1917 and 1918 Medicine Hat held large stampedes which were both unqualified successes. At the 1917 affair, cowboys hailed from as far away as Claremore, Oklahoma; Great Falls and Havre, Montana; and Pendleton, Oregon, while the four-day attendance totalled over 28,000.[85] Medicine Hat's population at the time was approximately 9,000.[86]

As a sequel to the expansion of rodeos, the Alberta range began to produce many world-ranking rodeo performers. One of the best was Emery LeGrandeur, a bronc rider from Pincher Creek. In his most prolific year on the rodeo circuit, 1913, LeGrandeur was the acknowledged world champion on both sides of the 49th parallel.[87] At the Winnipeg Stampede, following the announcement that he had won the title, world's champion bucking horse rider, LeGrandeur gave a superb "exhibition of riding without any bridle and with both hands high in the air on as bad a bucker as the corrals held."[88] In the ensuing years, more Alberta cowboys triumphed in international competition as they strove to regain the glory that had been lost to the American cowboys at Calgary in 1912.

## Steeplechase and Jumping Events

In the Alberta area from 1900 to 1918, there were three equestrian competitions which may be included in this section. They were the hurdle race, hunters' jumping, and high jumping. The hurdle race and hunters' jumping were steeplechase events, while high jumping, as the term implies, was a jumping contest for height. Winners of these events usually received trophies and/or cash prizes.

Of the three competitions the hurdle race was the most common during this era. It was a popular event at agricultural fairs, picnics, holiday celebrations, gymkhanas, race meets, and horse shows. The hurdle race was similar to the horse race, except that competing entries were required to clear a number of low hurdles that were placed on the track. The length of the race, the height of the hurdles, and the number of hurdles per race varied from one competition to the next.

Hunters' jumping was an artificial adaptation of the hunt minus the quarry. Early in the twentieth century this event was held outdoors in conjunction with agricultural fairs and exhibitions. But with the construction of elaborate exhibition facilities, which started about 1908 in many of Alberta's larger centers, hunters' jumping moved indoors and became an integral part, not only of exhibitions, but also of horse shows, the equestrian fairs. Besides the men's competitions, ladies' and pairs jumping were part and parcel of many programs.

The most prestigious award that could be won by hunters was the Alberta Hunters' Trophy. No doubt this trophy was conceived by members of the Calgary Hunt Club, for this club was formed in 1908 and the Alberta Hunters' Trophy was first put up for competition at the 1909 Calgary exhibition. This trophy competition was open to horses bred in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. The steeplechase course was made up of the following jumps: bar four feet high; brush four feet six inches high; sheep corral, where the fences were three feet high and twenty feet apart; imitation stone wall four feet high and eighteen inches thick; two brush hurdles three feet six inches high, placed to make one jump four feet wide; gate four feet high; three bars, two feet six inches high, each fourteen feet apart; then over all but the last three bars a second time.[89] In reference to the conditions by which a winner of the Alberta Hunters' Trophy was determined, the Calgary Albertan stated that:

> Three refusals of the same jump, or the rider falling will disqualify. Each refusal of any jump counts one point off; knocking down jump, one point off; knocking off loose bar, ½ point off, touching loose bar without knocking down, ½ point off. To be judged by a committee of three, composed of the light horse judge, the judge of saddle horses, and one other to be named by the first two appointed.[90]

Although hunters in the above competition were judged for performance only, this was not always the case. At the 1911 Medicine Hat and District Fall Fair, for example, the horses were to be judged seventy-five per cent for performance over the jumps and twenty-five per cent for conformation, quality, and general appearance.[91]

The growth of equestrian high jumping as a sport in the Alberta area closely paralleled the evolution of hunters' steeplechase events. By far the most significant development in high jumping was the improvement of performances. To illustrate, at the 1903 Calgary Inter-Western Pacific Exhibition, "Trench's Peacock" won the open high jump event when he cleared four feet six inches.[92] Eleven years later at the Calgary Spring Horse Show, three horses jumped seven feet four inches in the open jumping contest to better the Pacific Coast record by one inch. It was also at this 1914 horse show that "Smokey", a seventeen-year-old cowpony owned by D.P. McDonald of Cochrane, established a world record for horses under fifteen hands when he cleared the bar at an even seven feet.[93]

**Footnotes**

[1] *Calgary Herald*, September 20, 1900. Also, see *Calgary Herald*, July 16, 1903.

[2] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 31.

[3] John Blue, *Alberta. Past and Present*, Volume I, Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1924, p. 217.

[4] "Sport of Kings Part of Old Chapter," *Lethbridge Herald*, January 28, 1961, Provenance: Calgary – Horse Racing File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[5] L.G. Thomas, "The Ranching Period in Southern Alberta," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1935, p. 144.

[6] *Macleod Gazette*, June 14, 1901.

[7] *Ibid*.

[8] *Ibid*.

[9] *Edmonton Bulletin*, May 3, 1901.

[10] *Ibid*., June 27, 1904.

[11] Allan Elton Cox, "A History of Sports in Canada, 1868-1900," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 365.

[12] *Edmonton Bulletin*, June 4, 1912. Also, see *Eye Opener* (High River), August 8, 1903.

[13] *Calgary Albertan*, June 29, 1911.

[14] "Great Horses and Riders Have Been a Tradition at Millarville for More Than 65 Years," *Calgary Herald Magazine Section*, June 19, 1970.

[15] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 11, 1916.

[16] Calgary Albertan, January 13, 1912.

[17] Ibid., March 28, 1912.

[18] Ibid.

[19] Ibid.

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# CHAPTER XIV

# GOLF

Golf was first played in that part of the Northwest Territories now included in Alberta about 1890 at Macleod.[1] Ten years later in this region, the sport was participated in, not only at Macleod, but also at Edmonton,[2] Calgary,[3] Medicine Hat,[4] and Banff.[5] The annual tournament was the major event scheduled at each center. In 1900 the Calgary Golf Club's tourney was comprised of the following competitions: men's championship, men's singles handicap, men's foursomes, men's driving with driver, men's driving with cleek, men's putting contest, men's approach, mixed foursomes, ladies' championship, ladies' singles handicap, ladies' driving with driver, ladies' driving with cleek, ladies' putting contest, and ladies' approach.[6]

According to newspaper gleanings from the turn of the century, golf was one of the most popular summer sports among the women. But such was not the case among the men who preferred sports like baseball, association football, horse racing, cricket, polo, lacrosse, rifle shooting, and trap shooting. This dissidence was due, in part, to the preponderating male attitude that since golf was so popular with the ladies, it was a sport played only by effeminate types. But golf was in vogue among the sportsmen of

Eastern Canada and Great Britain at this time and when thousands of immigrants from these areas moved into Alberta, there was a noticeable increase in the number of men golfing enthusiasts. Alberta's male sporting fraternity began to realize that golf could indeed be a manly sport, and that it required a high level of concentration, coordination, and skill. As a result, golf club memberships grew which, in turn, forced clubs to initiate spring, summer, and fall tournaments and to inaugurate competitions each Saturday afternoon for both ladies and men. These Saturday afternoon gatherings at the links became extremely popular socially. In 1906 the Calgary Herald stated that

> Nothing is more refreshing after a hot day's round of 18 holes than a cup of tea, and one will find the "19th hole" gay with those who have played or are about to do so, and those who merely come to enjoy the social part of the game.[7]

Due to the increased participation in golf throughout the province, the Calgary Golf Club, in 1907, instituted a provincial golf tournament for the amateur championships of Alberta (unofficial). Held in September, C.W. Hague of Calgary captured the men's championship (match play) while Mrs. W.N. Clark, scratch, won the ladies' handicap nine-hole title (medal play).[8]

A year later, in 1908, the first official provincial tournament was held under the auspices of the newly-formed Alberta Golf Association (A.G.A.).[9] This tournament became an annual event and was held at the Calgary Golf course in 1908[10] and 1910,[11] at the Edmonton Golf course in 1909[12] and 1913,[13] at the Calgary Golf and Country course in 1912,[14] and at the Calgary St. Andrew's Golf course in 1914.[15] The tournament was postponed in 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918 on account of the War. For some inexplicable reason, the A.G.A. tournament does not appear to have been held in 1911. There is little doubt that the tournament was scheduled for Edmonton, since Alberta's two major cities alternately held the tournament between 1908 and 1910, and between 1912 and 1914. At all A.G.A. tourneys, the rules of golf as adopted and amended by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, along with the rules of the hosting club, governed.

The program of events of the A.G.A. tournaments varied little from one year to the next.[16] Following is the 1914 program.

1. Open championship. Open to all golfers (including professionals), 36 holes, medal play. Entrance fee, $3.
2. Amateur championship. Open to members of associated clubs, and others who can satisfy the executive committee as to their eligibility, 18 holes, match play. Final, 36 holes. Entrance fee, $2. The winner will hold ... the challenge cup presented by Hon. C.W. Cross for one year. Two prizes.
3. Ladies' championship. Open to ladies of associated clubs, and others who can satisfy the executive committee as to their eligibility, 18 holes, match play. Entrance fee, $1. The winner will hold ... the challenge cup presented by Dr. W. McKay for one year. Two prizes.
4. Annual handicap – 18 holes, medal play, two prizes. Entrance fee, $1.
5. Bogey competition – handicap, 18 holes, two prizes. Entrance fee, $1.
6. Foursomes handicap – 18 holes, medal play, two

prizes. Entrance fee, $1 for each player.

7. Mixed foursomes – handicap, nine holes, medal play. Entrance fee, $1 each pair.
8. Annual handicap for ladies – nine holes, medal play, two prizes. Entrance fee, $1.
9. Ladies' foursomes handicap – nine holes, medal play. Entrance fee, $1 each pair.
10. Team match. Composed of 10 men each from associated clubs, medal play, total aggregate score. Entrance fee, $10 for each team. The winning team to hold the cup presented by Messrs. McMahon, Ferris and Peet.[17]

In the championship competitions numbered 1-3 above, there were only two multiple winners during this era. C.W. Hague of Calgary won the men's amateur championship in 1908, 1910, and 1912,[18] while J. Munro Hunter of Edmonton captured the same title in 1913 and 1914.[19]

The year 1913 saw the only involvement of Albertans in international golf competition. In May, Jackson Walton, one of Edmonton's top golfers, represented Canada in the World Amateur Championship tournament at St. Andrews in Scotland. Walton was eliminated in the first round, six up and five to play.[20] Later in the year, a twelve-man Calgary Golf and Country Club team journeyed to Spokane and participated in a two-day, inter-city competition, which included four-ball matches, two-ball foursomes, and singles. The golfers from the Spokane Country Club defeated the Calgarians 13-6.[21]

Participation in golf expanded rapidly between 1910 and 1918. This was principally due to its appeal as a recreational pursuit to both young and old, and to both ladies and gentlemen. Because of the upper class exclusiveness and the membership restrictions of the Calgary[22] and Edmonton[23] Golf and Country Clubs, the development of golf was delayed a few years in these cities until new clubs were created. In April, 1912, the Calgary St. Andrew's Golf Club was founded. The demand for this second Calgary club was reflected in the fact that within one week of its inception 120 members had enrolled.[24] Unfortunately, the St. Andrew's club, for the most part, restricted its membership to devotees from the old country.[25] As a sequel to demands by residents of Calgary and Edmonton, who felt that "municipal governing bodies had a responsibility to provide city-owned golf links for the use of their citizens,"[26] municipal golf courses were constructed and were operating in both of these cities by 1915.[27] With the completion of the Shaganappi course in Calgary, a headline in the News-Telegram read "MANY POOR GOLFERS ARE NOW ABLE TO PLAY THE PASTIME (golf)."[28]

With the establishment of many new clubs in the larger centers of Alberta during the second decade, inter-club matches became very common. For example, in August, 1914, a twenty-three-member Calgary St. Andrew's Golf Club team competed in Edmonton against the Golf and Country Club of that city.

> A whole day's sport was indulged in and the result was of the closest, the Calgary team winning by the narrow margin of three-fourths of a point on the whole day's play. Play was by singles in the forenoon and foursomes in the afternoon, one point being allowed for winning the bye.[29]

Later in 1914, probably the largest inter-club golf match to be held in the Alberta area during this era took place on the Calgary Golf and Country Club course between the host club and the St. Andrew's Golf Club. This competition featured thirty-six per side.[30]

By 1918 golf had become popular in Alberta to an extent inconceivable at the turn of the century. In Calgary, for instance, golf club membership increased from fifty-seven in 1906[31] to over 1,000 by 1916.[32] Excepting the postponement of the Alberta Golf Association tournament from 1915 through 1918, the War had little effect on golf. In fact, with the establishment of publicly-owned golf courses in Calgary and Edmonton, the number of participants in these cities grew. This was due to increased participation by boys and elderly men, who were both exempt from military duty, and by the ladies. The newspapers indicate that golf was one of the most popular sports during the War from a participant point of view.

Early in the century, transportation posed a problem to many golfing enthusiasts since courses were frequently located on the purlieu of towns and cities. But the automobile solved these difficulties. In 1908 the Calgary Albertan reported that:

> The mode of transportation to and from the (golf) course on Saturdays and holidays is to be made in H.R. Downey's new motor wagonette, which is to be run at a stated time from the Alberta hotel, and over a given course. The course to be taken will be announced at a

> later date. With this means of reaching the links, doubtless a large and enthusiastic crowd will take advantage of it.[33]

There were, however, two related factors which hindered the development of golf in the Alberta area during this entire era. First, the formation of a golf club involved a huge expenditure. Land had to be purchased, and a nine-hole course and a clubhouse had to be built and maintained. Therefore, only those communities that contained a large number of affluent golfers could support a golf club. Secondly, golf tended to be a middle and upper class sport. This was due to the aforementioned outlay required to establish a club, and to the cost involved in the purchase of the necessary equipment. With the exception of the high cost of equipment, these hindrances were, to a great extent, eradicated later in the century by the widespread building of municipal golf courses.

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# CHAPTER XV

## ICE HOCKEY

Ice hockey was popularized in Eastern Canada in the second half of the nineteenth century to fill a void in the long, cold, destitute winter evenings of this country. The sport spread westward where the first games of hockey, by newspaper accounts, to be played in the area which was later to be Alberta were contested at the Star Skating Rink in Calgary during the winter of 1892-1893.[1] Within a couple of years hockey had been introduced into other towns in this region and immediately the sport's popularity soared. By 1900 hockey had reached a level of advancement equalling that of the two dominant summer team sports, association football and baseball. Every town and practically every village from Pincher Creek and Medicine Hat in the south to Edmonton in the north supported at least one senior team. Many of the larger centers also boasted junior and school clubs. Within this setting, intra-village and intra-town, as well as inter-village and inter-town challenge matches became popular while tournaments and challenge trophy competitions added impetus to the sport's growth.

When the twentieth century dawned, hockey was exclusively an outdoor sport. The Edmonton Bulletin reported in November, 1901, that new outdoor hockey arenas were being constructed in Edmonton[2] and in Strathcona.[3] The Strathcona rink contained a hockey surface which measured sixty feet by 120 feet with a twenty-foot-wide course all around it for skating, and was lit by about twenty-five incandescent lamps.[4] Whenever possible clubs secured the use of electric light plants so that play could continue into the night.

The rules under which the game was played were relatively uniform since most clubs had adopted the regulations of the Manitoba and Northwest Territories Hockey Association. Commonly games consisted of two, thirty-minute halves. Teams were composed of seven players – a goalkeeper, one point, two cover points, and three forwards; by 1903 in most districts, the rover position had replaced one cover-point man. Once a match commenced substitution was not allowed except in the case of an accident or an injury. Usually however, if a player was injured so that he could not continue, the other team dropped a player to maintain equal numbers on each side. Playing surfaces were not marked by any lines and consequently one referee was all that was needed to control a game. There were two goal umpires for every match and their decisions were final. Since forward passes were not permitted, a player was offside if he was in front of the puck when it was in the control of his own team.[5]

Hockey was an infant sport in 1900 and during the first two decades of the present century its rules were in a constant state of flux. All of the above regulations were improved upon; some of them were altered in the extreme. The new rules were introduced in Eastern Canada (Ontario and Quebec) or on the West Coast by the Patrick brothers and, for the most part, were readily accepted throughout the Dominion.[6] By 1920 many of the rules that govern hockey today had evolved.

After 1900, immigrants, including many Eastern Canadians who were familiar with hockey, poured into the Alberta area and it was this increase in population that allowed for a more sophisticated organization of the sport. The major trend was toward the establishment of leagues both within and between communities. One of the earliest leagues formed was the 1901 Calgary senior circuit which embraced four teams - the Victorias, North West Mounted Police, Fire Brigade, and Canadian Pacific Railway.[7] In 1903 the first two inter-town leagues were organized. Didsbury, Red Deer, Lacombe, Olds, Wetaskiwin, and Leduc made up the Central Alberta Hockey League[8] while Medicine Hat, Macleod, Pincher Creek, Frank, and Fernie, B.C., constituted the Crow's Nest Hockey League.[9] Further demonstrating the league phenomenon, a three-team town league operated at Macleod in 1904;[10] the Calgary School Hockey League of 1906 included the high school, public school, Western Canada College, and Calgary Business College;[11] and in 1907, Stettler boasted a four-team town league.[12]

Because of its rapid growth in participant and fan support, ice hockey, especially in the urban areas, did not remain entirely an outdoor sport for long. Between approximately 1902 and 1909, indoor skating rinks were utilized more and more frequently for hockey until finally the leisure skaters were forced outside when it became apparent to rink owners that hockey was a much more remunerative attraction than was skating. But even the indoor skating arenas could not meet hockey's demand for covered facilities; moreover, they could not accommodate the large crowds which flocked to crucial senior games. As a result of these factors, the building of indoor hockey arenas became prevalent. One of the initial structures was erected at Edmonton in the fall of 1902.[13] Among other things it provided a playing surface, sixty feet by 180 feet, seating for 1,500 spectators, a gallery which ran all around the building, and comfortable waiting rooms.[14]

On the interprovincial scene, Rossland, the 1905 British Columbia senior champions,[15] toured Alberta early in 1906 and played two games each in Calgary,[16] Strathcona, and Edmonton.[17] The visitors were not treated hospitably on the ice by the home teams who won five of the six games contested. Later that season the Edmonton Thistles journeyed eastward playing games at Regina, Moose Jaw, and Carberry in Saskatchewan, and at Brandon and Portage la Prairie in Manitoba. To their chagrin the Edmonton aggregation discovered that the hockey played in these two provinces was of a high standard; the Thistles managed but one victory.[18] In February, 1907, the Edmonton club redeemed themselves to a certain degree when, before crowds of 1,300 at Edmonton's Thistle Rink, they defeated Regina in two straight games to win the Secord Shield.[19] This challenge trophy was donated by R. Secord, M.L.A., in 1904, and was originally emblematic of the championship of the Northwest Territories (unofficial),[20] although by 1907 it had become symbolic of the championship of Alberta and Saskatchewan (unofficial).

Starting with the winter of 1907-1908, hockey in Alberta moved into a new era. To begin with, a momentous organizational step took place at a meeting in Red Deer in November, 1907, when the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association (A.A.H.A.) was formed.[21] This association became the provincial governing body for the sport. In its first season of operation the A.A.H.A. established two levels of competition, a class "A" league and a class "B" league. The Edmonton and Strathcona senior teams were grouped alone in the class "A" section while all the other member teams were placed in the "B" division. They included Lacombe, Stettler, Red Deer, Olds, Didsbury, Crossfield, and the Edmonton Wanderers, Edmonton's second team.[22] Whether or not the A.A.H.A. realized at the time that the Edmonton and Strathcona senior clubs were paying several of their players is not known. Nevertheless, by categorizing these two teams by themselves the fledgling provincial association probably averted a major amateur-professional scandal.

The issue of professionalism in hockey came into the open in late February of 1908 when Roy Milner took the Strathcona Senior Hockey Club, to whom he was under contract, to court.[23] According to Milner the club was withholding part of his wages. The Strathcona Senior Hockey Club had agreed to pay Milner $500 in salary, plus his board, expenses, and return transportation from Gladstone, Man., in return for his services from January 1 to March 5, 1908.[24] At the same time in the east, the Eastern Canadian Amateur Hockey Association faced up to the hard fact that some of its players were being paid by ruling that "oil and water could mix after all, that amateurs could appear on the same ice as professionals."[25] However, this was not to be the case in Alberta. For hockey's sake in this province, the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) was formed just at the right time, in May, 1908. Its goals were to govern, promote, and protect all kinds of amateur sport in the province and, as an affiliate of the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union, it took a definite stand that amateurs and professionals would not be allowed to compete together.[26]

Fred Whitcroft took over the reins of the Edmonton Senior Hockey Club prior to the 1907-1908 season.[27] He was an Eastern Canadian by birth and was an outstanding hockey player who eventually had his name enshrined in the Hockey

Hall of Fame.[28] At Edmonton Whitcroft gradually convinced prominent businessmen that, with the proper players, the capital would have a good chance of winning the Stanley Cup, Canada's premier hockey trophy. The businessmen also realized that the notoriety to be gained from a Stanley Cup series would be an inexpensive means of advertising their city. Consequently, in the fall of 1908 they promised Whitcroft the necessary financial support to recruit a Stanley Cup contender.

The Edmonton management made no bones about the fact that their team was to be a professional aggregation. Therefore when they played Strathcona in an exhibition game in December, 1908, the A.A.A.A. had no choice but to suspend the entire Strathcona team.[29] In the meantime, the Montreal Wanderers, holders of the Stanley Cup, accepted Edmonton's challenge.

Whitcroft assembled a formidable team. When Edmonton arrived in Montreal in late December for the first game of the two-game, total-point series their line-up was star-studded. It consisted of Bert Lindsay (goal), Lester Patrick (point), Didier Pitre (cover), Whitcroft (rover), Vair (center), Tom Phillips (right wing), McNamara (left wing), and Deeton and Miller (substitutes).[30] Besides Whitcroft, only Deeton and Miller had played for the Edmonton Senior Hockey Club the previous year. The rest were all imports; at least three of them – Patrick, Pitre, and Phillips – like Whitcroft, are today honored in the

Hall of Fame.[31] But, to a great extent, because the Edmonton team was a collection of individual stars who were not accustomed to each other's styles, they lost the series to the Wanderers 13-10.[32]

Even in these earliest days of professional hockey money was of key importance. The Vancouver Province reported that in order to entice Tom Phillips to join their team the Edmonton club had to pay him at the rate of $300 for a game lost and $400 for a game won.[33] This was a large amount of money in that era even though Phillips was, at the time, acknowledged as Canada's greatest hockey player.

Edmonton's attempt to "buy" the Stanley Cup confronted Canadians with a situation that could no longer be hidden. Professionalism had come to stay. Early in 1909 P.D. Ross and William Foran, the trustees of the Cup, ruled that in the future all men would be barred from competition in Cup games who jumped from one team to another after January 2 of any season;[34] and each challenging club would be required to file contracts for the season with the Stanley Cup trustees, of every player on the team, and those players would be ineligible to participate in Cup games with any other team for the space of one year.[35]

In January, 1910, an Edmonton professional team made that city's second and final attempt to capture the Stanley Cup. Unlike its predecessor a year earlier this squad, with but two exceptions, was composed of permanent

Edmonton residents. The line-up featured Jack Winchester in goal, Hugh Ross from Moose Jaw at point, Billy Field from Winnipeg at cover, Fred Whitcroft at rover, Harold Deeton at center, Jack Miller at right wing, and Bert Boulton at left wing.[36] At Ottawa on January 18 and 20, this Edmonton club performed very creditably in defeat, losing to the Ottawa Senators, who held the Stanley Cup, by scores of 8-4 and 13-7.[37]

Since Edmonton's two challenges for the Stanley Cup were contested in Eastern Canada, professional hockey played in Alberta during this era was basically limited to the Fit Reform Cup series. At Winnipeg on their return from Montreal in 1909, the Edmonton team won the Fit Reform Cup, which was emblematic of the professional hockey championship of Western Canada, from the Winnipeg Maple Leafs. In the next two years they successfully defended it against the Winnipeg Shamrocks,[38] Moose Jaw,[39] and Prince Albert[40] before they were defeated by a Stettler-based team in February, 1911.[41] Apparently this trophy remained in Stettler until at least 1919 for there were no further reports of professional hockey being played.

The Alberta Amateur Hockey Association grew slowly in its formative years. From nine teams in its inaugural season, 1907-1908, it expanded to sixteen teams, four teams in four separate districts, two years later. The member districts and teams during the 1909-1910 season were Didsbury - comprising Airdrie, Crossfield, Olds, and

Didsbury; Red Deer – composed of Lacombe, Stettler, Castor, and Red Deer; Lloydminster – consisting of Vermilion, Kitscoty, Lloydminster, and Lashburn, Sask.; and Edmonton – which included Vegreville, Strathcona, Edmonton Y.M.C.A., and Edmonton Wanderers.[42] One factor stands out in reviewing the A.A.H.A.'s first three years of operation. No team south of Airdrie had been included on its membership roll. Teams in Southern Alberta snubbed the association since it had restricted its activities to the central portion of the province.

Finally in 1910-1911 the A.A.H.A. extended its scope and became a truly province-wide, representative body. That year a new district in the south, which embraced teams from Taber, Lethbridge, Macleod, and Pincher Creek, was formed while Calgary St. Mary's and the Calgary Athletic Club joined clubs from Lacombe, Didsbury, and Stettler to make up the central division.[43] Calgary St. Mary's ultimately won the provincial championship when they defeated the Edmonton Deacons 12-10 in a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series.[44]

During this era situations of reproach afflicted most primordial amateur sports associations and the A.A.H.A. was no exception. In February, 1911, Bud Kent, Neil Sutherland, and Chuck Clarke jumped from the Strathcona team, which had withdrawn from further A.A.H.A. competition that season, to other member clubs. Kent went to Lacombe while Sutherland and Clarke were picked up by the

Athletic Club of Calgary.[45] Surprisingly, the A.A.H.A. constitution did not make provision for such a situation. An impromptu meeting was immediately called by the association which resulted in the suspension of both the Lacombe and Calgary Athletic Club teams. The A.A.H.A. also passed a resolution "That in future no players who have been a member of any club in this association be allowed to play with any other club during the same season."[46] Nonetheless, emotions ran high.

This experience taught the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association the importance of a strict residence rule. At its 1911 annual meeting, which was held at Calgary in November, an updated motion concerning players' residence was passed. It read

> That all previous residence clauses be rescinded and that in the future, in order to be eligible to play on any team in the A.A.H.A., a player must be a bona fide resident of the city or town in which he is playing, on or before the first day of November of the concurrent year.[47]

This new residence rule only added ammunition to the Alberta hockey unsettledness. Fred Gravelle, manager of the Calgary Athletic Club and a member of the executive committee of the A.A.H.A., among others, felt that the rule was too stringent and that it would hamper those clubs that were forced to recruit players in order to compete in the A.A.H.A.[48] But was it necessary for amateur sports organizations to recruit players? Could not have an intermediate division within the A.A.H.A. been formed for the 1911-1912 season? These questions concerned Alberta hockey devotees. When Gravelle resigned from the parent body and organized an "outlaw" league many felt that the principles of amateurism were at stake. The Toronto Globe and Mail strongly supported the A.A.H.A. It stated that the A.A.H.A. "will find that a strong residence rule, strictly applied, is the greatest possible bulwark of amateur sport, and absolutely essential for its stability and progress."[49]

Calmness marked the aftermath of this scandal. Gravelle's Calgary Athletic Club won the "outlaw" league, which was dubbed the Southern Alberta Hockey League and consisted of the Calgary Athletic Club, Bassano, High River, and at least one other team from the High River district.[50] Meanwhile the Taber Chefs captured the A.A.H.A.-sanctioned championship by defeating the Edmonton Eskimos in what the press headlines described as the "Biggest Surprise in Alberta Hockey History – Cook's Hard Checking Completely Broke up Eskimos' Team Play – Score 2 to 0."[51] The Taber team was frequently referred to as "The Cooks" because it was composed of Albert G. Cook (goal), A.B. Cook (point), Lloyd T. Cook (cover point), J. Ernest Cook (rover), J. Leo Cook (center), H. Wilbur Cook (ring wing), and George Baird (left wing). Four of the Cooks were related; A.B., Lloyd, Leo, and Wilbur were all brothers.[52]

In February of 1912 both the Calgary Athletic Club and Taber legitimately challenged for the Allan Cup, which was symbolic of Canadian amateur hockey supremacy. Being unable to accommodate both Alberta squads, the Cup trustees ordered a sudden-death playoff.[53] At Calgary on February 28 the Athletic Club defeated Taber 5-3. The Chefs had much the better of the play outshooting Calgary 31-11, but they were stymied time-and-time again by the brilliant net-minding of Chuck Clarke.[54] But all was for naught because at Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Victorias retained the Allan Cup by defeating Calgary 19-6 in their two-game, total-point series.[55]

The "outlaw" league folded prior to the 1912-1913 season and the A.A.H.A. functioned smoothly that year until the final round of the playoffs. Then, after the Taber Chefs had eliminated the Edmonton Eskimos in the provincial semi-finals, Leo Cook of the Chefs charged that Tommy Thompson of the Calgary Shermans, who Taber were to meet in the finals, was a professional. Thompson, whose real name was Tommy Piette, admitted that he had played professional hockey in the east.[56] When it had been proven to the satisfaction of the A.A.A.A. that Cook had prior knowledge of the pro status of Piette but that he had agreed to keep mum on the subject, the A.A.A.A. suspended not only Piette for the remainder of the season but also Cook.[57] This appeared to rectify the situation and the playoffs resumed with the Shermans defeating the Chefs 3-2 in the first game of the final series for the Alberta championship.

But then the Edmonton Eskimos brought forward affidavits certifying that Lloyd Cook of the Taber squad had played with a semi-professional team at Fernie, B.C.[58] At this point the Calgary Albertan remarked that "hockey affairs have been in a muddle long before this season, but, of all the muddles which have ever muddled, the present condition of hockey in this province has a little the edge on anything in history."[59] This time the A.A.H.A. did not wait for the A.A.A.A. to take action. Upon investigation they immediately suspended Taber for the balance of the season and ordered a sudden-death game between the Calgary Shermans and the Edmonton Eskimos to determine the provincial champion. But the Shermans refused to play the game on the basis that Taber had already eliminated Edmonton and that, according to the last executive meeting of the A.A.H.A., no action could be retroactive. The Shermans disbanded in a heated furor with the A.A.H.A.[60] Ultimately the A.A.H.A. declared the Eskimos the Alberta champions.[61] The finale to the 1912-1913 season was anti-climatic. Edmonton travelled to Winnipeg where they lost their Allan Cup bid 18-8 in a two-game, total-point series.[62]

Having survived three consecutive years of crisis it was only fitting that the A.A.H.A assumed a sane and stable position throughout the remainder of this era. The 1913-1914 season was most successful. That year, because of the widening quality of senior hockey teams in the province, the A.A.H.A. inaugurated an intermediate division.[63] It was composed of twenty teams who contested their schedules in six different districts, the Northern, Central, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Rocky Mountain.[64] In addition there were three districts and ten teams in the senior division. They were district I – Edmonton Eskimos, Edmonton Dominions, Calgary Centrals, and Calgary Chinooks; district II – Edmonton South Side Athletic Association, University of Alberta, and Edmonton Pennants; and district III – Medicine Hat and Redcliffe.[65] The Calgary Victorias emerged as the provincial intermediate champions and the Edmonton Dominions won top honors in the senior section. Subsequently, the Dominions were upset 5-2 by the Regina Victorias in an elimination game to decide a Prairie opponent for the Allan Cup holders, the Winnipeg Monarchs.[66]

Edmonton's Thistle Rink was razed by fire in October, 1913.[67] This unfortunate event forced Edmontonians to utilize the horse show building on the exhibition grounds as a hockey arena during the 1913-1914 season. There on January 21, 1914, a record Alberta hockey crowd, up to that point in history, of 3,500 watched the Dominions defeat the Eskimos 7-6 in a crucial district I league game.[68] Spectator enthusiasm for the sport was definitely not lacking in 1914.

At the annual meeting of the A.A.H.A. in November, 1914, the most noteworthy motion was one which instituted a provincial junior series. This action was taken as a result of the overwhelming success of the intermediate division in 1913-1914. A junior was defined as a player whose twentieth birthday did not occur until after January 1 of the year in question.[69] Edmonton gained a sweep of the Alberta championships in 1915. The Eskimos,[70] Hustlers,[71] and Beavers[72] won the senior, intermediate, and junior crowns respectively. However, for the fourth successive year Alberta failed in its Allan Cup aspirations. The Winnipeg Monarchs defeated the Eskimos 17 to 9 in a two-game, total-point series which was played at Moose Jaw.[73]

Prior to the 1915-1916 season the A.A.H.A. made three important changes. First, the senior division was discontinued "owing to lack of senior talent in Edmonton and Calgary, the two cities who have in the past furnished the majority of entries ...."[74] This decision was primarily the result of heavy recruitment losses to the War. An absence of suitable playing facilities in Alberta's two biggest cities was also a contributory factor. In February, 1915, Sherman's Rink in Calgary met with the same disastrous fate which had befallen the Thistle Rink in Edmonton.[75] And with the advent of the War, the military were granted the use of the community-owned horse show buildings in both of these cities. The second and third changes which the A.A.H.A. implemented in November of 1915 were constitutional in nature. Rule 12 was amended to read that all games would be played in three, twenty-minute periods instead of in two periods of thirty minutes. Lastly, to conform with the residence rules of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association in regard to Allan Cup competition, the date within the residence clause of the A.A.H.A. was moved forward to October 1.

This new date was to take effect on October 1, 1916.[76]

But in 1916 the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association took the stand that, in the majority of cases, athletes of military age should be in khaki, and banned all intermediate and senior civilian sports which were under its jurisdiction.[77] In November of that year the A.A.H.A. reinforced the A.A.A.A. judgment by adopting the following motion: "That we will not recognize either senior or intermediate hockey until the end of the war, but devote all our energies to fostering both juvenile and junior hockey among boys 20 years of age and under."[78] Alberta was the only province in Canada during the winter of 1916-1917 where intermediate and senior hockey were not played. In reference to this the Edmonton Bulletin commented that "Perhaps when the war is over the other provinces may be able to boast of more hockey players who stayed at home and helped to keep the game alive – but it will be nothing worth blowing about."[79]

When the Military Service Act of 1917 definitely settled the liability for military service the A.A.A.A. felt that every effort should be made to encourage intermediate sports among those not conscripted.[80] But because the War had taken its toll in manpower and finance, only eight teams entered the rejuvenated provincial intermediate hockey league of 1917-1918, four from both Calgary[81] and Edmonton.[82] Calgary's 78th Battery won the Alberta championship by defeating the Edmonton South Side club 9-8 in a two-game, total-point, home-and-home series.[83]

The A.A.H.A. did a commendable job in establishing a purely amateur game; however, in other areas the association was not as effective. Membership fluctuated from year to year and there were many teams and leagues that never once joined the A.A.H.A. For example, neither the Bow Valley Hockey League, which at various times embraced clubs from Bassano, Strathmore, Gleichen, Langdon, and Brooks, nor the North Eastern Hockey League, which flourished along the Grank Trunk Pacific Railway from Chauvin to Tofield, were ever affiliates. The fact that villages could not compete on an equal basis with the towns and the cities appears to have been one deterrent. The inauguration of senior "A" and "B" and intermediate "A" and "B" divisions would have redressed this situation and at the same time, stimulated competition within the provincial organization.

Hockey's development in the Peace River country was delayed because of the great distances between settlements and transportation difficulties, that is, the absence of railways.[84] Almost all competitions were restricted to the intra-community level. It was not until 1915 that a Peace River area hockey championship was decided. That year Peace River Crossing travelled to Lake Saskatoon to contest the three-game, final series. In reference to this excursion the Edmonton Bulletin stated that:

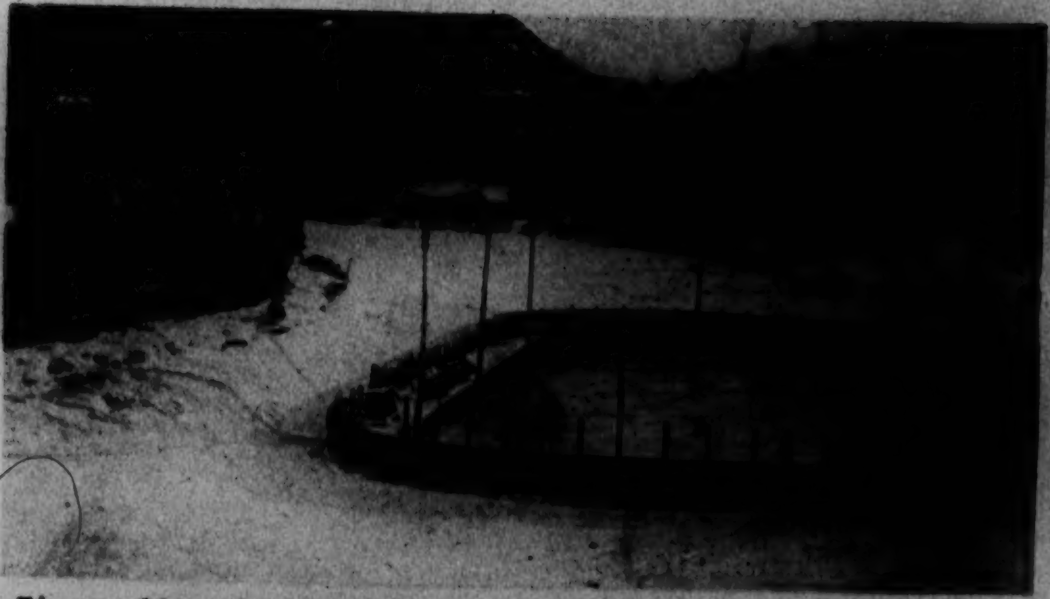

Figure 19. Hockey and skating rink at Banff, 1912.

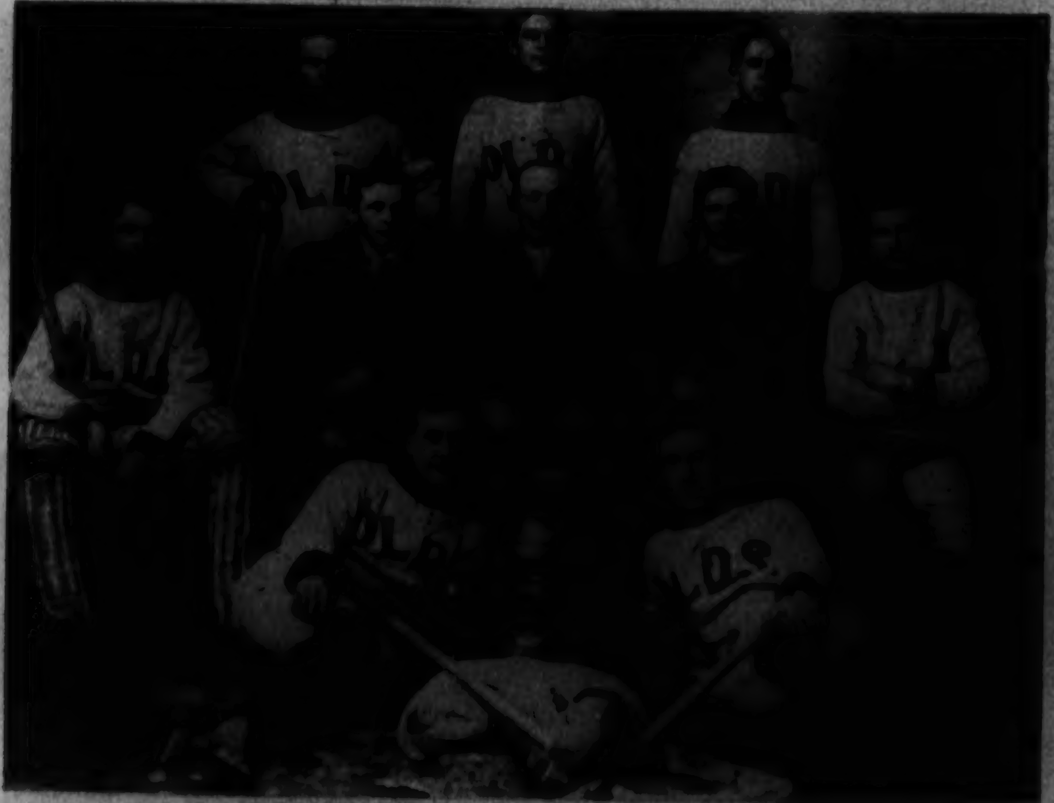

Figure 20. The 1907 Olds hockey team, Central Alberta Hockey Champions.

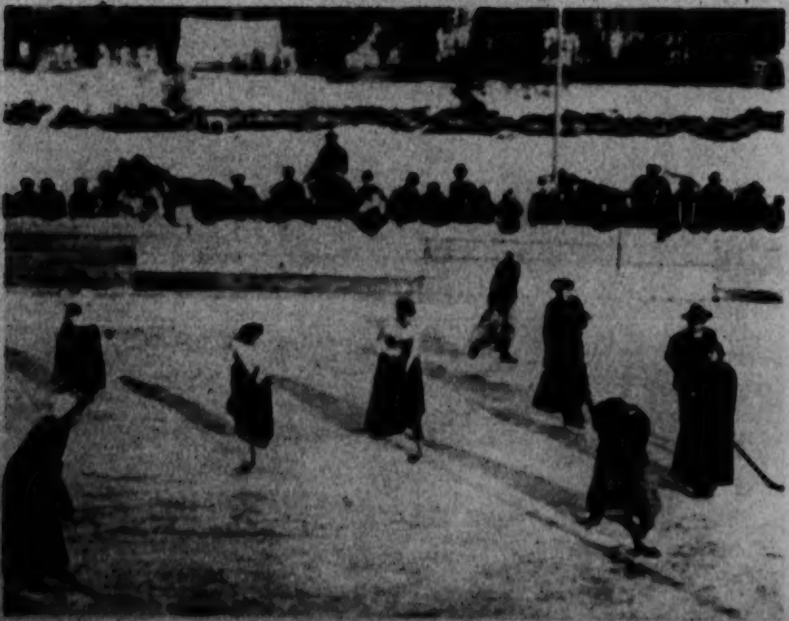

Figure 21. A women's hockey game at Banff, ca. 1904-1905.

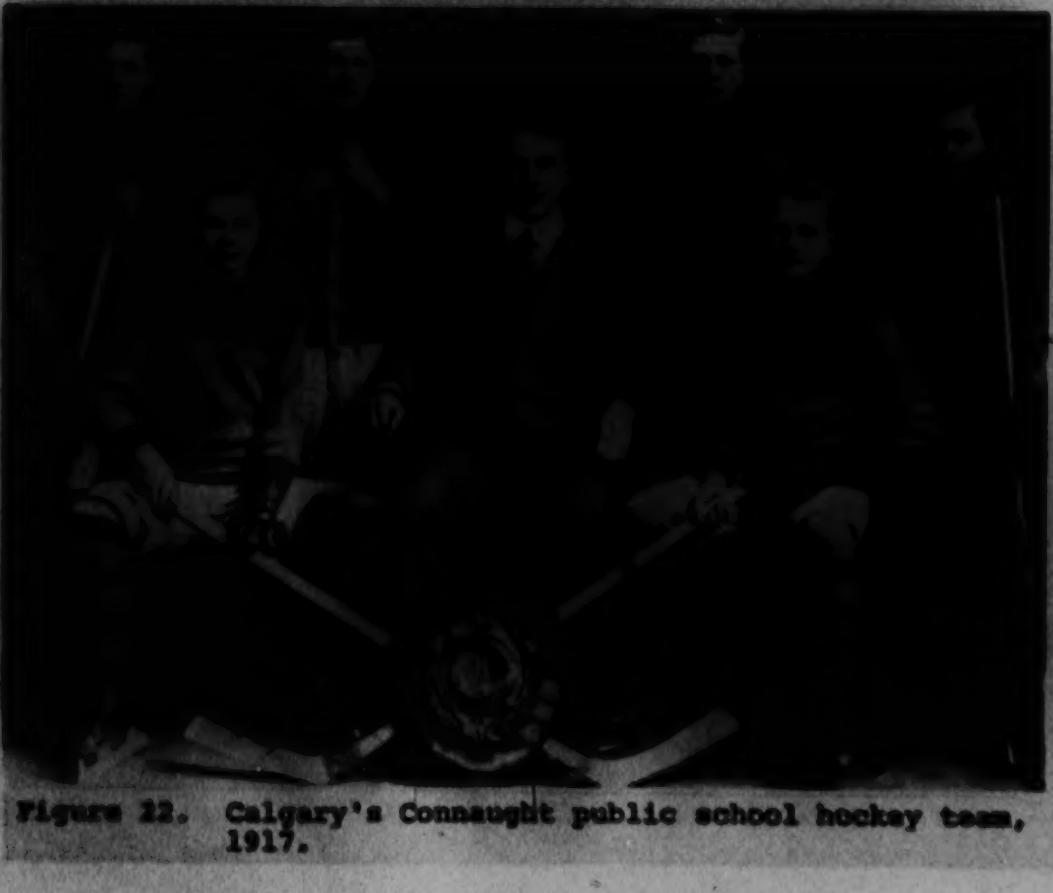

Figure 22. Calgary's Connaught public school hockey team, 1917.

> This will be the first sporting expedition to invade Grande Prairie and marks another step in the advancement of civilization, as heretofore the Crossing was unable to support such a venture. The trip (by horse and wagon) consists of 140 miles (one way) and will require three and one-half days each way. An elaborate program has been made up for the party, both en route and at the Prairie.[85]

Lake Saskatoon won this series and thereby claimed the Northern Alberta title.[86]

In the southern and central Alberta area prior to the War, the rapid increase in population laid the foundation on which ice hockey was fostered. As the number of immigrants swelled, the transportation barrier, which limited competition at the turn of the century to a simple challenge level, was surmounted by the phenomenal expansion of Canada's three transcontinental railways. This in turn led to the formation of leagues and ultimately to the extension of the scope of the A.A.H.A. so that it became a veritable provincial organization under whose auspices provincial championships were staged. Within this framework two institutions, the Y.M.C.A. and the school, played paramount roles. The influence of the Y.M.C.A.s was confined to the large urban centers. Although Y.M.C.A. leagues as such were not common, this corporate body lent its technical knowledge to the organization and supervision of many juvenile, junior, church, and school leagues, and where possible, provided outdoor rinks.

Perusal of primary source material attests that hockey was, by far, the most popular winter sport in the schools of the Alberta region. Early in the twentieth century Dunbow Industrial School, an all-Indian residential school located at High River, was most progressive. Besides playing challenge matches in the High River-Okotoks area, Dunbow regularly played exhibition games in Calgary and on numerous occasions royally entertained teams from that city.[87] In February, 1901, the Calgary senior club split a two-game series at Dunbow and, as usual, the Calgary players were "loud in their praise of the treatment which they received from Rev. Father Naessens, the principal of the school, his staff and the boys. They passed a night at the school and enjoyed a most splendid time."[88] Three years later, in March, 1904, the Indian boys toured Central Alberta and competed at Red Deer, Innisfail, and Olds. The Calgary Albertan reported that "In the three towns where the Indians played, all the spectators were unanimous in saying that these matches were the best exhibitions of clean hockey which had been witnessed in their rinks this season."[89] The Dunbow players were reputed to be thoroughly clean sportsmen who would rather lose a game than they would their esteem.[90]

Intramural matches between scratch teams, challenge games between neighboring schools, challenge games between schools and local aggregations, and local league participation by high schools were the predominant forms of competition in Alberta's rural, village, and town schools throughout this era. This was also the tenor in the city schools until approximately 1912 when an increasing number of educational institutes within close proximity heralded the arrival of regular school league play.

At Calgary the first school hockey league was formed in December of 1906; the public school, the high school, Western Canada College, and Calgary Business College were the component clubs.[91] Six seasons later, sixteen teams from nine schools competed in three distinct classes within the Calgary Public School Hockey League,[92] while nine squads in junior, intermediate, and senior divisions battled for top honors in the Calgary Interscholastic Athletic Association Hockey League.[93] As indicated the public school league was divided into three classes. "D" was for teams of boys over 100 pounds; "C" was for teams averaging 100 pounds; and "B" was for teams averaging eighty-five pounds. This "weight classification system" ensured that boys of similar sizes played together and placed all schools, large and small, on a similar basis.[94] All public school league games at Calgary in 1912-1913 consisted of two, fifteen-minute periods. No overtime play was allowed because it had "been proven to be too great a strain on the growing boy, ..."[95] The growth of schoolboys' hockey in Calgary, which exemplified the trend all through the province, was tremendous. By 1914-1915 there were forty-six school teams playing in organized school leagues,[96] an increase of forty-two clubs from the initial 1906-1907 school league season and an increase of twenty-one teams from 1912-1913. This number levelled off for the remainder of this era since most high school, preparatory college, and post-secondary students, who normally would have participated in the Interscholastic Athletic Association league, left their respective halls of learning so that they could contribute to the War effort, either by working in the factories or in the grain fields or if old enough, by enlisting.

The earliest hockey club at the University of Alberta (U. of A.) was organized in December, 1909.[97] That year it entered the Edmonton Intercollegiate Hockey League and finished in a second-place tie with Strathcona Collegiate Institute, three games behind the victorious Edmonton High School.[98] In 1910-1911,[99] 1911-1912,[100] 1913-1914,[101] 1914-1915,[102] and 1915-1916 the U. of A. senior team participated in the northern division of the A.A.H.A., the first two seasons as a bona fide senior club and the latter three years as an intermediate entry.

Hockey was the first sport to be contested on the inter-university level by the U. of A. The initial match was played in February, 1911, when the Alberta varsity journeyed to Saskatoon. There, behind the eight-goal performance of their center, Goodridge, they humiliated the University of Saskatchewan (U. of S.) 16-0.[103] By this victory the U. of A. captured the Tory Cup, which was donated by Dr. Tory, president of the Alberta university, for yearly competition between these two Prairie institutes of higher learning.[104] Two years later the U. of A. retained the Tory Cup by defeating the U. of S. 7-4 at the South Side Rink in Edmonton and 4-2 at Saskatoon.[105] During the Christmas holidays of 1913 the U. of A. toured Western Canada playing games in Southern Saskatchewan and in Manitoba. At Winnipeg on Christmas Day the University of Manitoba upset the U. of A. 6-4.[106] Commenting on the tour an article in The Gateway stated that

> Apart from its sheer magnitude, the undertaking was an epoch-making one, inasmuch as it not only brought us into touch with Manitoba hockey, but at the same time enabled us to set on foot in a definite fashion a movement for the establishment of athletic relations, which will include all the universities of Western Canada.[107]

Unfortunately the War quelled all further inter-university hockey aspirations of the U. of A. for many of the students entered the military service.

Somewhat surprising, because it was not considered particularly ladylike, hockey attracted many schoolgirls and women to its realm. At Medicine Hat, Strathcona, and Edmonton women were playing the game prior to the turn of the century.[108] After 1900 the number of localities boasting ladies teams grew. In February, 1902, the Macleod Gazette observed:

> The ladies' hockey match last night between two local clubs, Thorns vs. Thistles, was well attended and proved highly interesting to the spectators. Notwithstanding the fact that it was only their third experience with hockey sticks, having had only two practices, the ladies put up a first-class snappy game ... The game resulted in a win for the Thorns by a score of 6 to 2.[109]

Due primarily to its novelty, ladies' hockey matches usually drew considerable crowds of onlookers.[110] The garb which was worn by the female hockey devotees is amusing by today's standards. Patsy Pue, a member of the Calgary Regents during this era, recalled that "We wore shin pads, of course, but with striped socks over them, gym bloomers, turtle-neck sweaters, and toques with big pompons."[111]

The first hockey league in Alberta to feature the fair sex was formed at Calgary in February, 1914, when Calgary University, Mount Royal College, and Calgary Collegiate Institute inaugurated the Calgary Girls' Interscholastic Hockey League.[112] From 1915 to 1918, mainly because facilities became available when men's teams and leagues suspended action on account of the War, the participant popularity of women's hockey increased rapidly. Intervillage, town, and city and intra-city challenge matches became very common. The Calgary Albertan remarked that "ladies' hockey was becoming a rule and not an exception."[113] By 1917 the Edmonton Victorias and the Calgary Regents had established themselves as the superior clubs in the province. That year at Calgary these teams battled to 1-1 and 0-0 draws.[114] However in 1918 the Victorias, who were now known as the Monarchs, broke their deadlock with the Regents. At Strathcona Rink in Edmonton on February 11, "over one thousand fans witnessed the defeat of the Calgary Regents by the score of 1-0 by the Edmonton Monarchs in the match for the provincial championship (unofficial) ...."[115] This game was played in three, fifteen-minute periods. The Monarch's line-up consisted of Miss Coffey (goal), Miss T. Gilfoyle (point), Miss C. Vance (cover point), Miss M. Peacock (rover), Mrs. Logan Blades (center), Miss V. Moore (right wing), and Miss J. Tidsbury (left wing).[116] One month later the Monarchs defeated both Vulcan and the Calgary Crescents to win the Hervey Cup at Banff's second annual winter carnival.[117]

Newspaper gleanings of the 1900-1918 era indicate that ice hockey attracted more participants and spectators each year than did any other winter sport. An article in the Calgary Albertan's anniversary issue of February 28, 1912, was entitled "Hockey Is Alberta's Greatest Winter Sport;...." and stated that

> ... it must be conceded that hockey – Canada's national winter game – is pre-eminently first in the first rank of sport ... hockey is the game of games and as it becomes better known and understood, so does it more securely attach itself to the affections of the sport-loving public and becomes more and more a part of the life of the nation.[118]

The progress of hockey between 1900 and 1914 rivalled that of association football and baseball. In other words, it was phenomenal. The burgeoning development of these three sports closely paralleled the rapid population increase of the Alberta area. To illustrate hockey's advancement, during the 1900-1901 season Calgary supported one league, a four-team senior circuit.[119] Thirteen years subsequent there flourished within this same city a six-

team mercantile league, a five-team church league, a four-team implement league, a thirty-two-team public school league, a five-team interscholastic league, a three-team girls' interscholastic league, a ten-team junior league, a four-team intermediate league, and two inter-city league senior teams.[120] Meanwhile at Edmonton in January, 1900, a senior team, an intermediate team, a high school club, and several mercantile aggregations represented the totality of organized hockey in that center. Fourteen years later the capital city boasted a six-team independent (mercantile) league, a four-team junior employed boys' league, a six-team senior employed boys' league, a nineteen-team public school league, a four-team intercollegiate league, three intermediate league teams, a three-team senior league, two inter-city league senior teams,[121] plus a great number of scratch teams that did not participate in league play.

The First World War restricted the growth of hockey. After 1914, only in the public schools, and in the case of juvenile, junior, junior girls', and ladies' participation did the sport progress. Artificial ice plants were not introduced into the province until after 1918. Consequently in Southern Alberta, in addition to the War, the winter climate was often detrimental to the unfoldment of the sport. In an area from Didsbury, approximately, south to the international boundary, chinook winds frequently limited the hockey season to two and one-half short months, from mid-December to the end of February.

## Footnotes

[1] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 72.

[2] Edmonton Bulletin, November 22, 1901.

[3] Ibid., November 4, 1901.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, pp. 204-215.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Calgary Herald, January 3, 10, and 17 and February 7, 1901.

[8] Edmonton Bulletin, January 20, 1903.

[9] Macleod Gazette, December 19, 1902.

[10] Ibid., January 29, 1904.

[11] Calgary Herald, December 20, 1906.

[12] Edmonton Bulletin, January 22, 1907.

[13] From available data it appears that this was the original Thistle Rink.

[14] Edmonton Bulletin, August 25, 1902 and January 6, 1903. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, October 31 and November 11, 1904.

[15] Ibid., January 25, 1906.

[16] Calgary Herald, February 8, 1906.

[17] Edmonton Bulletin, January 30 and 31 and February 1 and 2, 1906.

[18] Ibid., February 26 and March 14, 1906.

[19] Ibid., February 25, 1907. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, March 20, 1907 and March 3, 1908.

[20] Ibid., January 5, 1904.

[21] Calgary Albertan, November 30, 1907.

[22] Edmonton Bulletin, December 16, 1907.

[23] Ibid., February 27, 1908.

[24] Ibid.

[25] Brian McFarlane, The Stanley Cup, Toronto: Pagurian Press Limited, 1970, p. 41.

[26] Edmonton Bulletin, May 18 and August 5, 1908.

[27] Ibid., December 13, 1907.

[28] Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 612.

[29] Edmonton Bulletin, December 11, 1908.

[30] Ibid., December 29 and 31, 1908.

[31] Menke, loc. cit.

[32] Edmonton Bulletin, December 29 and 31, 1908.

[33] Ibid., December 21, 1908.

[34] Ibid., February 19, 1909.

[35] Ibid., June 1, 1909.

[36] *Ibid.*, January 8, 1910.

[37] *Ibid.*, January 19 and 21, 1910.

[38] *Ibid.*, March 2 and 4, 1909.

[39] *Ibid.*, March 10 and 12, 1909.

[40] *Ibid.*, March 10 and 12, 1910.

[41] *Ibid.*, February 23 and 25, 1911.

[42] *Calgary Albertan*, November 24, 1909, February 9, 1910, and October 10, 1910.

[43] *Ibid.*, January 9, 1911.

[44] *Ibid.*, March 1, 1911.

[45] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 9, 1911 and *Calgary Albertan*, March 4, 1911.

[46] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 9, 1911.

[47] *Ibid.*, November 25, 1911.

[48] *Calgary Albertan*, December 16, 1911.

[49] *Ibid.*, December 20, 1911.

[50] *Ibid.*, January 15 and February 5, 1912.

[51] *Ibid.*, February 22, 1912.

[52] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 22 and 29, 1912.

[53] *Calgary Albertan*, February 27, 1912.

[54] *Ibid.*, February 29, 1912.

[55] *Ibid.*, March 8, 1912.

[56] *Ibid.*, February 22, 1913.

[57] *Ibid.*, February 26, 1913.

[58] *Ibid.*, March 3, 1913.

[59] *Ibid.*, March 4, 1913.

[60] *Edmonton Bulletin*, March 4, 1913.

[61] *Calgary Albertan*, March 8, 1913.

[62] *Edmonton Bulletin*, March 18, 1913.

[63] *Ibid.*, November 14, 1913.

[64] *Ibid.*, March 9, 1913.

[65] *Ibid.*, November 14, 1913.

[66] *Ibid.*, March 12, 1914.

[67] *Ibid.*, October 31, 1913.

[68] *Ibid.*, January 22, 1914.

[69] *Calgary Albertan*, November 9, 1914.

[70] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 12, 1915.

[71] *Ibid.*, March 2, 1915.

[72] *Ibid.*, February 17, 1915.

[73] *Ibid.*, March 9, 1915.

[74] *Ibid.*, November 8, 1915.

[75] *Calgary Albertan*, February 27, 1915.

[76] *Ibid.*, November 8, 1915.

[77] Ibid., March 25 and 28, 1916 and Edmonton Bulletin, November 14, 1916.

[78] Calgary Albertan, November 16, 1916.

[79] Edmonton Bulletin, December 5, 1916.

[80] Ibid., November 21, 1917.

[81] Calgary Albertan, January 12, 1918.

[82] Edmonton Bulletin, December 15 and 22, 1917.

[83] Ibid., March 2, 1918.

[84] Ibid., November 21, 1913.

[85] Ibid., March 12, 1915.

[86] Ibid., April 7, 1915.

[87] For example, see Calgary Herald, February 7, 1901, January 23, 1902, and February 4, 1904.

[88] Calgary Herald, February 7, 1901.

[89] Ibid., March 17, 1904.

[90] Ibid.

[91] Ibid., December 20, 1906.

[92] Calgary Albertan, January 20, 1913.

[93] Ibid., January 15 and 18, 1913.

[94] Ibid., February 19, 1913.

[95] Ibid.

[96] Ibid., December 16, 1914 and January 7, 12, and 13, 1915.

[97] Edmonton Bulletin, December 1, 1909.

[98] Ibid., February 21, 1910.

[99] Ibid., November 19, 1910.

[100] Ibid., December 1, 1911.

[101] Ibid., November 26, 1913.

[102] Ibid., November 26 and December 15 and 18, 1914.

[103] Ibid., February 28, 1911.

[104] Ibid., February 11, 1911.

[105] The Gateway, Vol. III, No. 7 (March 1913), pp. 20-21, Edmonton: The Students' Union, University of Alberta, 1913.

[106] Edmonton Bulletin, December 26 and 29, 1913.

[107] The Gateway, Vol. IV, No. 4 (January 1914), p. 17, Edmonton: The Students' Union, University of Alberta, 1914.

[108] Reid, op. cit., p. 75 and "Do You Remember: 'Way Back When ...,'" Edmonton Bulletin, March 31, 1934, Provenance: Edmonton - Pictures - Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[109] Macleod Gazette, February 14, 1902. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, February 1, 1904 and Calgary Herald, March 17, 1904.

[110] For example, see Calgary Albertan, February 12, 1908 and February 23, 1914.

[111] "Women's Hockey Has Long History Here," Calgary Herald, February 3, 1966, Provenance: Calgary - Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[112] Calgary Albertan, February 10, 1914.

[113] *Ibid.*, March 6, 1915.

[114] *Ibid.*, February 23 and 24, 1917.

[115] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 12, 1918.

[116] *Ibid.*

[117] *Ibid.*, March 13, 1918.

[118] *Calgary Albertan*, February 28, 1912.

[119] *Calgary Herald*, January 3, 10, and 17 and February 7, 1901.

[120] *Calgary Albertan*, November 15, 1913, December 4, 13, and 20, 1913, January 6, 8, 19, and 22, 1914, and February 10, 1914.

[121] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 3, 14, and 26, 1913 and January 15, 20, and 22, 1914.

# CHAPTER XVI

## ICE SKATING

Ice skating was a general winter pastime by 1900.[1] In those communities where the population warranted it indoor and/or outdoor rinks had been erected. These structures were either privately owned or were the property of joint-stock companies. Elsewhere, natural bodies of water, which were cleared of snow, provided the setting.

Most rinks were lighted and during the long winter evenings were popular centers of social activity for both sexes. Music was supplied on a regular basis by the local band and its animation added charm to the milieu. Also fashionable at this time were fancy dress carnivals which offered either cash or commodity prizes. At the Grand Carnival which took place at Edmonton's Thistle Rink on January 22, 1904, the classes contested were fancy dressed lady, fancy dressed gentlemen, ladies' comic costume, gentlemen's comic costume, best dressed girl under sixteen years, best dressed boy under sixteen years, best dressed girl under twelve years, and best dressed boy under twelve years.[2]

Admission to the skating rinks ranged from ten cents for children and ladies to twenty-five cents for gentlemen. Indicative of the season ticket rates, the

Macleod Skating Rink Company, in 1901, charged as follows: family, $7.50; shareholder's family, $5,00; ladies, $3.00; and gentlemen, $5.00.[3] During this era the price of skates was not prohibitive. In the year 1910, McClary's Hardware at 419 Namayo Avenue, Edmonton, advertised plain hockey skates at fifty cents a pair, spring skates at seventy-five cents per pair, men's nickel-plated hockeys at from $1.25 to $5.50 a pair, and ladies' bevel-edged hockeys at from $2.00 to $2.50 a pair.[4]

By the end of the first decade, skating rinks designed primarily for recreational skating and fancy dress carnivals had become outmoded. This was due to the tremendous growth of ice hockey which proved to be a more lucrative attraction for the rink owners. However, this did not signal the death knell of skating for the pastime continued to be in vogue wherever and whenever ice was available. In November, 1913, the Edmonton Bulletin reported that

> ... several hardware dealers in Edmonton indicate that there may be a shortage of skates in Northern Alberta this winter, and that the demand has been greater by far than in any previous season ... Everyone seems to be going to skate, and everyone is buying new skates. Some dealers have almost sold out their supply, and have written to eastern wholesalers for more, but discovered that there may be difficulty in securing them.[5]

It was estimated that 10,000 pairs of skates would be sold in the capital during the winter of 1913-1914.[6]

The popularity of ice skating is further portrayed by the fact that numerous professionals gave highly-successful exhibitions of speed and figure skating before large audiences in Alberta's major towns and cities. Skating on stilts, backwards skating, and barrel jumping were also part of their performances. These touring professionals, who included J.K. McCulloch in 1900,[7] Norval Baptie and G. Bellefeuille in 1908,[8] Baptie and Miss Isabel Butler in 1913,[9] and Edmund Lamy in 1914,[10] received a percentage of the gate receipts for their efforts.

Besides leisure skating, speed skating was enjoyed by a large number of residents. Wherever skaters met, whether on the nearest creek or at the local rink, impromptu races were conducted. In addition, rink managements frequently sponsored both dashes and distance races as extra attractions. At no time was the sport organized on a provincial scale and consequently Alberta championships (unofficial) either took the form of challenge matches or were held under the auspices of enterprising rink owners. In 1903 at Wetaskiwin, Kenny Blatchford of Edmonton claimed the Territorial championship and won a trophy, a cluster of medals, and a $50 purse, when he triumphed over M.E. Bick of Calgary over the one mile and three mile distances. Bick defeated Blatchford in the half-mile heat.[11] Two years later the Alberta championships were staged at Red Deer.[12] There O.B. Bush of Edmonton was the individual star as he won the half-mile, one mile, and three mile events; Peacock of Innisfail finished second in each instance.[13] Sherman's Rink in Calgary and Edmonton's Thistle Rink were the sites, respectively, of the 1910 and 1911 provincial championships. At Calgary, Davidson of Bankhead and Banff won the grand aggregate title by skating away with the 440 yard, 880 yard, one mile, and three mile events,[14] while Bush achieved top honors at the Edmonton meet by winning the 220 yard, 440 yard, 880 yard, and one mile competitions.[15]

Speed skating was an integral part of Banff's 1917[16] and 1918[17] winter carnivals. In 1918 the events contested and the winners were:

> ¼ mile (men's) – T. Davidson, Banff – 44 seconds; ½ mile (men's) – Davidson – 1 minute and 33 seconds; 1 mile (men's) – Davidson; ½ mile backwards (men's) – L. Mather, Banff; ½ mile (ladies') – Doris Douglas, Banff; ¼ mile team race – Mrs. P.A. Moore, Banff, and Davidson – 53 seconds.[18]

By far the finest speed skater in Alberta during this era was Okie B. Bush of Edmonton. In the decade prior to the War, Bush, along with Fred Robson and Lot Roe of Toronto, dominated amateur speed skating in Canada.[19] Bush's accomplishments are amazing considering the fact that he had but one arm. The Edmontonian rose from relative obscurity on the national skating scene to win his first major championship in 1908. Concerning this victory, the news dispatch read:

> MONTREAL – The surprise in the contests for the amateur championships of America, held here today, was the victory of O.B. Bush, of Alberta, in the 220 yards, which he won from Fred Logan and Robson of Toronto with comparative ease.[20]

The following year, 1909, was Bush's most prolific. In Eastern Canada and Eastern United States that winter he had fourteen wins and sixteen seconds[21] while competing against some of the best speed skaters in the world. His victories included the 880 yard international indoor championship at Pittsburg in 1:17.4 minutes;[22] the one mile international indoor championship at Pittsburg in 2:52 minutes;[23] the 220 yard international outdoor championship at Saranac Lake, New York;[24] a 220 yard race at Cleveland in which he set a new world record of 19.2 seconds;[25] and the 220 yard, 440 yard, 880 yard, one mile, and three mile events at the Canadian championships in Montreal.[26] In the ensuing years, Bush continued to win races in the east although by 1912 he was no longer a resident of Alberta having relocated in Vancouver.[27]

## Figure Skating

In the Alberta area there was a lack of participant interest in figure skating, which was also called fancy skating or art skating, until about 1915. Sometime late that year or early in 1916 the Calgary Art Skating Club (C.A.S.C.) was formed,[28] and in March of 1916 arranged a sport festival of unusual interest.

> For the first time in the sport history of Alberta figure skating artists of the province will compete, under the auspices of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada, for the championship honors of the province. The competitions are open to everybody residing in Alberta, and will be divided into two classes, viz.,

> ladies and gentlemen, competing separately ... To give everybody a chance to compete the very simplest international figures have been selected ....29

Whether or not this event was held is not known because no further mention was made of it.

In 1917 and 1918 the provincial figure skating championships were staged at Banff in conjunction with that town's first and second annual winter carnivals. They were arranged by the C.A.S.C. under the guidance of Mr. R.J. Verne, with the rules of the Amateur Skating Association of Canada and the International Skating Union of Europe governing. The 1917 program consisted of three events each in the singles skating, pairs skating, and waltzing competitions.

> Event I. Elementary. No. 1 — Outside edge. No. 2 — Inside edge. No. 3 — Outside edge (cross roll). Event II. International figures Nos. 1, 3, and 7. No. 1 — Forward outside eight (circle eight). No. 3 — Forward inside eight. No. 7 — Outside forward three. Each competitor to skate two minutes' free skating in addition to the above figures. Event III. Championship of Alberta. International figures Nos. 3, 6a, and 10. No. 3 — Right outside backward edge (circle eight). No. 6a — Change of edge eight (double eight). No. 10 — Double three outside forward. Each competitor to skate three minutes' free skating in addition to the above figures.30

It was compulsory that each individual figure be repeated three consecutive times. In marking, the following points were considered: correct tracing on the ice; carriage, plastic movement, and action; approximately accurate covering of the previous traces in the triple repetition of the figure; and size of the figure.[31] The outstanding figure skaters at the 1917 and 1918 Banff winter carnivals were R.J. Verne and Miss Mary McHugh of Calgary, who won the Alberta men's and ladies' singles championships, respectively, both years,[32] and who as a couple in 1917 captured the waltzing and pairs competitions.[33]

## Footnotes

[1] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 70.

[2] Edmonton Bulletin, January 6, 1904.

[3] Macleod Gazette, December 27, 1901.

[4] Edmonton Bulletin, November 25, 1910. Also, see Edmonton Bulletin, December 22, 1905.

[5] Ibid., November 22, 1913.

[6] Ibid.

[7] Ibid., January 1 and 19, 1900; Calgary Herald, January 25, 1900; and Macleod Gazette, February 9 and 16, 1900.

[8] Edmonton Bulletin, January 23, 1908 and Calgary Albertan, January 31, 1908.

[9] Edmonton Bulletin, January 7, 1913.

[10] Ibid., January 19, 1914.

[11] Macleod Gazette, January 9, 1903.

[12] Alberta Advocate (Red Deer), February 24, 1905.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Calgary Albertan, February 17, 1910.

[15] Edmonton Bulletin, February 27, 1911.

[16] Banff Crag and Canyon, February 17, 1917.

[17] Ibid., February 16 and 23, 1918.

[18] Ibid., February 23, 1918.

[19] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, p. 290.

[20] *Calgary Albertan*, February 4, 1908.

[21] *Edmonton Bulletin*, March 15, 1909.

[22] *Ibid*. and *Calgary Albertan*, January 6, 1909.

[23] *Ibid*.

[24] *Calgary Albertan*, January 6 and February 5, 1909.

[25] *Edmonton Bulletin*, March 15, 1909.

[26] *Ibid*.

[27] *Ibid*., February 17, 1912.

[28] *Calgary Albertan*, February 17, 1917. Also, see *Calgary Albertan*, February 12 and 14, 1916.

[29] *Edmonton Bulletin*, March 9, 1916.

[30] *Calgary Albertan*, January 26, 1917.

[31] *Ibid*.

[32] *Banff Crag and Canyon*, February 17, 1917 and February 23, 1918.

[33] *Ibid*., February 17, 1917.

# CHAPTER XVII

# LACROSSE

Field lacrosse, which was simply called "lacrosse" until the 1930s when the indoor sport of boxla lacrosse was devised, was a development of the North American Indian game of "baggataway" and was played for centuries by these aborigines before adoption and standardization by the white settlers of Canada.[1] It was an outdoor sport and featured twelve men per team — a goalie, point, cover point, first defence, second defence, third defence, center, third home, second home, first home, outside home, and inside home. During the era under investigation minor rule changes were constantly being made as the various national lacrosse associations tried, generally in vain, to increase the sport's spectator appeal.

Prior to 1900, in the territory today known as Alberta, lacrosse clubs had been formed, at one time or another, at Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Macleod.[2] These clubs were often short-lived, their instability due to an absence of lacrosse enthusiasts and a lack of competition within "horse-and-buggy" distance. "Competition among club members soon became less and less of a challenge."[3] But "owing to the continual arrival of eastern players in this country (the future Alberta),"[4] lacrosse clubs were established at Edmonton, Strathcona, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Macleod by the turn of the century. At the reorganizational meeting of the Macleod Lacrosse Club in 1900, the following was agreed upon: "Colors, blue and white, no sash. Tuesdays and Fridays practice days ... Membership fee, $1.00."[5]

The first lacrosse league in this region was established in 1901. On May 25 of that year, lacrosse delegates from Edmonton, Calgary, and Medicine Hat met in Calgary and organized the Western Territorial Lacrosse League (W.T.L.L.), with clubs from the three towns entered.[6] E.H. Taaffe of Montreal presented a $50 trophy,[7] emblematic of the Territorial Lacrosse Association (T.L.A.) championship, for competition between the championship teams of the W.T.L.L. and the Eastern Territorial Lacrosse League (E.T.L.L.).

The W.T.L.L. was a complete failure in 1901. The lack of proximity between league centers which gave rise to large travelling expenses resulted in the league's death. Prior to the formation of the W.T.L.L., the Edmonton Bulletin explained the problems which confronted the Edmonton entry.

> The great difficulty that suggests itself in the way of establishing a western (lacrosse) league is the distance between the towns in which the matches would be played, and the high passenger rates. The time and money necessarily spent by a player in visiting as a member of his team, any of the towns in Southern Alberta or along the main line, would be very considerable items for a team such as the

> one here, which has no bank account. If the railway rate could be materially reduced and the public prevailed on to do something in the name of sport and for the love of our national game, there is no reason why a league could not be organized and successfully maintained.[8]

Medicine Hat supported the best lacrosse team, by far, in the Alberta area in the early 1900s. In 1901, claiming the championship of the W.T.L.L. by default, this club journeyed into British Columbia where they defeated Nelson 11-2, tied Nelson 4-4, and lost to Grand Forks 9-2.[9] Later in the year Medicine Hat defeated Wolsely, the E.T.L.L. champions, 9-0 and thereby won the Territorial (Northwest) Lacrosse Association championship.[10]

In 1902 the W.T.L.L. consisted of three teams: Calgary, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.[11] Medicine Hat repeated as champions of this league, and went on to successfully defend the Taaffe Trophy when they defeated Moose Jaw 3-2.[12] Four Peards – J. Peard (goal), W. Peard (1st defence), M. Peard (2nd defence), and A. Peard (3rd defence) – played on this championship team.[13] In 1903 Medicine Hat, for the third consecutive year, won both the W.T.L.L. and the T.L.A. championship. The Souris, Manitoba, club were the victims in the T.L.A. championship game by a score of 4-1.[14]

Lacrosse was an extremely popular game at Lethbridge during these early years of the twentieth century. In 1902 and 1903 the Lethbridge Lacrosse Club competed in both the W.T.L.L. and the Crow's Nest Pass Lacrosse League.

Although unsuccessful in the W.T.L.L., Lethbridge won the Levasseur Cup, which was emblematic of the championship of the Crow's Nest Pass league, in both 1902 and 1903.[15]

Along the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, lacrosse continued to prosper in 1904. When the T.L.A. discontinued operations due to financial failure, clubs from Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Frank, Fernie, B.C., and Cranbrook, B.C., organized an interlocking schedule between the Crow's Nest Pass Lacrosse League and the newly-formed Alberta Union Lacrosse League.[16] Meanwhile, lacrosse teams north of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway struggled to survive. Except for Calgary's participation in the Western Territorial Lacrosse League, league competition between 1900 and 1905 in this area was nonexistent and challenge games were the rule. The press was not to blame for this predicament for the newspapers, particularly the Edmonton Bulletin and the Calgary Herald, promoted lacrosse much more than they did any other sport. In 1904 the Bulletin cited the dilemma of the Edmonton lacrosse club.

> Possibly as one result of the "American Invasion" the sports in all the other northern towns appear to have gone in for baseball first, football second and lacrosse nowhere. The result is that while the boys here have been practicing for some time and are now in pretty fair condition, no games have been played and none are in sight, simply for the want of 'the other side'.[17]

Later that same year, however, the Edmonton lacrosse team played a series of six challenge matches, four against Strathcona and two against Red Deer.[18]

In 1905 lacrosse enjoyed a moderate upsurge in popularity. Although the Crow's Nest Pass league was the only league that operated in Alberta, inter-town and inter-city games were much more frequent elsewhere. Edmonton toured Southern Alberta, playing games in Lethbridge, Raymond, and Calgary;[19] the Calgary squad journeyed to Edmonton for a contest on Inauguration Day;[20] and the Edmonton and Strathcona clubs played a six-game series.[21]

In the institutes of higher learning, lacrosse was played at Western Canada College in Calgary as early as 1905[22] while a year later in Edmonton, Alberta College defeated the Strathcona intermediates 3-2.[23] Also in 1906 the Calgary and Strathcona Lacrosse Clubs made tours of British Columbia. Of the games that were reported, Revelstoke defeated the Calgary twelve 10-2[24] and tied Strathcona 4-4, while New Westminster defeated Strathcona 14-4. Strathcona salvaged one win when they upset Kamloops 14-3.[25]

By 1906 the Crow's Nest Pass Lacrosse League had degenerated to the point where it was creating a terribly bad image for the sport. Disputes, protests, and defaulted games were the rule rather than the exception. Large sums of money were bet on games, often with an adverse effect. For example, the following indicates why the Frank lacrosse team folded during the 1906 season.

> The Frank Lacrosse club have settled with their creditors, paid 70 cents on the dollar and have retired from business, owing to the importing of

> several players who it is stated sold the game to the Lethbridge club who beat them today, whereby the Frank citizens lost some $4,000. No more lacrosse for Frank this season.[26]

Another underlying factor which added to the turmoil was the absence of a practicable residence clause within the league constitution. This led to the frequent importation of "ringers" from Eastern Canada and their appearance in league games. The proliferation of disputes, protests, and defaulted games, which ultimately resulted in the demise of the Crow's Nest Pass league in 1907, could have been avoided if the league had originally been established on a strong administrative basis.

The principal attempt to organize lacrosse in Alberta during this era took place at Calgary in May, 1907, when the Alberta Amateur Lacrosse Association (A.A.L.A.) was founded. Senator DeVeber of Lethbridge, the foremost promoter of lacrosse in the province, was elected president of this fledgling organization. The Canadian Amateur Lacrosse Association rules and constitution were adopted with but a few changes. The new association was divided into two districts, north and south, for league competition with the winners in each district to play off for the Legislator's Cup, which was also referred to as the Alberta or DeVeber Cup.[27] Through the efforts of Senator DeVeber, the twenty-five members of the provincial legislature gave five dollars each towards the purchase of the trophy that was to represent the lacrosse championship of Alberta.[28]

Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and High River were the original clubs in the southern division of the A.A.L.A. while Edmonton, Strathcona, and Calgary constituted the initial northern division.[29]

The lacrosse played in the northern division of the A.A.L.A. in 1907 was of the toughest, bloodiest, fight-filled variety. After viewing several games, pugilist Barney Mullins of Edmonton, in a letter to the captain of the Edmonton Lacrosse Club, listed the successes of his boxing career and offered his services to the Edmonton team.

> In the light of my successes in this phase of lacrosse (pugilistics), which today seems to be the preponderating nature of the game, I believe my services would be invaluable in aiding the Caps to secure the DeVeber cup.[30]

Wisely, the Edmonton management decided not to accept the fighter's offer.

In spite of the rough play, 1907 witnessed the most successful lacrosse season during the period under examination. There were few disputes or defaulted matches in the A.A.L.A. and large crowds watched the highly-entertaining games. Calgary captured the Alberta championship by defeating Lethbridge in a home-and-home series, 3-1 and 3-0.[31]

Between 1908 and 1910 senior lacrosse in Alberta declined rapidly in popularity. At Edmonton in 1910

> A team was organized and several exhibition games with Strathcona were arranged but it was almost impossible to get twelve men out, even for a match, and two games with nine men aside were played.[32]

Enthusiasm in Southern Alberta was only slightly better since clubs at Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, High River, and Calgary were hard put to remain organized. Many factors contributed to the collapse of senior lacrosse at this time. The extreme spectator and participant popularity of baseball and association football was perhaps the major factor. Most of the "spectator dollar" was spent watching either Western Canada Baseball League games or Alberta Association Football League games at the same time that thousands of athletes were allured to the realm of these two sports. A shortage of athletic playing fields in Alberta's towns and cities was also a contributory force. In 1912 the Edmonton Bulletin stated "there never has been a lacrosse team in the city that amounted to anything for the simple reason that there never was a field suited to practise."[33] Professionalism in an amateur league, resulting from the importation of Eastern Canadian stars, was a third factor which, by 1910, left the A.A.L.A. senior championship undecided amidst a confusing turmoil relative to protests, counterprotests, and defaulted games. Last, but not least, lacrosse simply had lost popularity. The sport had not been played in the public schools and high schools due, for the most part, to the elaborate and expensive equipment which it required. A new generation of athletes had therefore turned to other sports.

In 1908 the declining caliber of lacrosse in Alberta was reflected when Calgary, the Alberta titleholders, lost exhibition games to teams from Saskatchewan and British Columbia. In Regina on Victoria Day, the home twelve overwhelmed Calgary 8-1,[34] while later in the year, New Westminster, holders of the Minto Cup, defeated Calgary 7-2 in Calgary.[35] A brighter event occurred when Dan McLeod of the Calgary club was selected as Alberta's representative on Canada's Olympic Lacrosse team, and "from reports of the contests proved himself as one of the strongest players on the Canadian contingent."[36]

An intermediate series was initiated by the A.A.L.A. in 1908.[37] Teams from Calgary, Nanton, High River, Red Deer, Lacombe, and Content in 1908[38] and from Edmonton, Lacombe, Red Deer, Calgary, High River, Nanton, Lethbridge, Macleod, and Raymond in 1909[39] were slated to compete in this series. Although High River won the Mosley Cup, which was symbolic of the intermediate lacrosse championship of Alberta, in both 1908 and 1909,[40] the intermediate series was not a success. This was because a general lack of interest resulted in many forfeited games.

Joe Lally, of Cornwall, Ontario, a well-known lacrosse referee and player visited Alberta in October, 1910, in an attempt to revive the "national game". Lally's aim was to establish the sport in the schools. The Edmonton Bulletin elaborated on his method of promotion.

> In order that the Edmonton youth may be able to indulge in Canada's national game, Mr. Lally, at a heavy expense will hand out lacrosse sticks to school leagues at a very reasonable price. Lally and Company, manufacturers of lacrosse

> sticks, have decided to place sticks in the hands of leading hardware merchants in different cities where they may be obtained by school boys at less than half price.[41]

The 1911 lacrosse season north of Calgary consisted merely of occasional challenge matches. In the south, however, Lally's visit resulted in a revival of the sport. In Calgary a four-team Senior City Lacrosse League[42] and a three-team Schools' Lacrosse League[43] were formed. On April 29, the Calgary Albertan stated:

> Yesterday afternoon, for the first time in Calgary's history, lacrosse teams composed entirely of boys under nineteen years old played a match. The game was between Western Canada College and High School teams of the newly-formed Schools' Lacrosse league. The College boys won by the score of 6 to 4.[44]

Elsewhere, the southern district of the A.A.L.A., senior series, which was composed of teams from Lethbridge, Taber, and Medicine Hat, completed a successful double round-robin schedule. This district league experimented with ten-man teams and a playing field reduced in length to one hundred yards.[45] At its annual meeting in May, 1911, the Alberta Amateur Lacrosse Association joined the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.).[46] Perhaps if this affiliation had taken place in 1908 when the A.A.A.A. was founded, many protested games over alleged professionalism, which retarded the development of lacrosse, could have been avoided.

During 1912 and 1913, while most other sports were rapidly gaining public favor as a result of the ever-increasing influx of immigrants, lacrosse was lifeless in Alberta except at Calgary and High River where two leagues represented the totality of the sport. The Calgary Schools' (Interscholastic) Lacrosse League, comprising Mount Royal College, Calgary Collegiate Institute, and Western Canada College, completed its second successful season in 1912.[47] The following year Calgary Collegiate Institute and Western Canada College were the sole entrants in this interscholastic league.[48] The second league operating in 1912 and 1913 was the A.A.L.A. senior division which embraced two Calgary teams and one High River aggregation. In 1912 High River won the Alberta championship by default;[49] but in 1913, because of improvements both in organization and in the caliber of play, this league attracted much spectator support and consequently thrived for the first time since 1907. On neutral grounds at Cochrane in the sudden-death final, Calgary Chinooks bested High River 3-1 to capture the DeVeber Cup.[50]

At the annual meeting of the A.A.L.A. in April, 1914, two rule changes were unanimously agreed upon. The playing field was reduced to 100 yards from 120 yards, and ten men instead of twelve were to constitute a team. "The feeling of the meeting was that this would make a faster game, and would also make it cheaper for the clubs to make the long jumps."[51] But the A.A.L.A. executive's efforts were futile. There were no A.A.L.A. intermediate or senior leagues in 1914 as lacrosse in Alberta reached a low ebb.

Although Joe Lally made his second crusade through the province in the spring of 1914 in an attempt to establish lacrosse in the schools, all was for naught. The only league, at any level, in the entire province that year was the Calgary Interscholastic Lacrosse League. For the fourth consecutive year this league functioned successfully.[52] The only other highlight in 1914 came when the Calgary Chinooks attempted to wrest the Mann Cup, emblematic of Canadian amateur lacrosse supremacy, from the Vancouver Athletic Club. The Chinooks were defeated 12-0 and 5-2 in Vancouver,[53] but were later awarded the Mann Cup when the Cup's trustees decided in favor of Calgary's protest against Vancouver's Reg Kendall, a professional according to the Alberta and British Columbia amateur unions.[54] However the Canadian Amateur Lacrosse Association ruled differently[55] and the Vancouver Athletic Club retained the Mann Cup.

World War I sealed the fate of lacrosse. The only lacrosse league reported to be operative in Alberta during the War years was a two-team, inter-battalion league in Edmonton in 1916[56] which, later in the year, expanded into the five-team Sarcee Camp Lacrosse League.[57] Elsewhere lacrosse was dead for civilian teams did not exist. The Calgary Interscholastic league suspended play when many young men quit school either to enlist or to contribute to the War effort in the factories, the coal mines, and the grain fields. On an old-timers' lacrosse game at Mewata Park in 1917, the Calgary Albertan commented "The scarcity of spectators at the event proved conclusively that the game of lacrosse is a dead one in the city."[58] The Albertan would also have been correct had the word "city" been changed to "province".

## Footnotes

[1] Frank G. Menke, *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, 1963, pp. 642-643.

[2] John E. Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, pp. 38-40.

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 38.

[4] *Edmonton Bulletin*, April 5, 1901.

[5] *Macleod Gazette*, April 20, 1900.

[6] *Medicine Hat Weekly News*, May 30, 1901.

[7] *Edmonton Bulletin*, May 13, 1901.

[8] *Ibid.*, April 5, 1901.

[9] *Medicine Hat Weekly News*, July 4 and 11, 1901.

[10] *Ibid.*, November 7, 1901.

[11] *Calgary Herald*, May 22, 1902.

[12] *Medicine Hat Weekly News*, September 18, 1902.

[13] *Ibid.*

[14] *Calgary Herald*, August 6, 1903.

[15] *Lethbridge News*, September 18, 1902 and September 10, 1903.

[16] *Medicine Hat Weekly News*, April 21, 1904.

[17] *Edmonton Bulletin*, June 13, 1904.

[18] *Ibid.*, September 21, 1904.

[19] Ibid., August 18 and 21, 1905.

[20] Ibid., September 5, 1905.

[21] Ibid., August 9, 1905.

[22] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, p. 147.

[23] Edmonton Bulletin, May 5, 1906.

[24] Calgary Albertan, September 5, 1906.

[25] Edmonton Bulletin, October 11, 1906.

[26] Calgary Herald, August 2, 1906.

[27] Calgary Albertan, May 29, 1907.

[28] Edmonton Bulletin, March 21, 1907.

[29] Calgary Albertan, May 29, 1907.

[30] Ibid., July 26, 1907.

[31] Ibid., September 24 and 26, 1907.

[32] Edmonton Bulletin, February 2, 1911.

[33] Ibid., April 16, 1912.

[34] Calgary Albertan, May 26, 1908.

[35] Ibid., August 12, 1908.

[36] Ibid., February 28, 1912.

[37] Ibid., May 6, 1908.

[38] Ibid., May 6 and July 3, 1908.

[39] Edmonton Bulletin, April 10, 1909.

[40] Calgary Albertan, August 29, 1908 and September 9, 1909.

[41] Edmonton Bulletin, October 7, 1910.

[42] Calgary Albertan, May 29, 1911.

[43] Ibid., April 29, 1911.

[44] Ibid.

[45] Medicine Hat Weekly News, June 6 and August 17, 1911.

[46] Edmonton Bulletin, May 18, 1911.

[47] Calgary Albertan, May 21, 1912.

[48] Calgary News-Telegram, April 16, 1913.

[49] Calgary Albertan, January 1, 1913.

[50] Ibid., September 19, 1913.

[51] Ibid., April 22, 1914.

[52] Ibid., April 22 and December 11, 1914.

[53] Ibid., May 25 and 27, 1914.

[54] Ibid., September 30, 1914.

[55] Ibid., December 7, 1914.

[56] Edmonton Bulletin, May 11, 1916.

[57] Calgary Albertan, July 7 and 8, 1916.

[58] Ibid., September 20, 1917.

Figure 23. The 1910 High River lacrosse team.

Figure 24. The Edson Tennis Club stopping for tea, 1912.

# CHAPTER XVIII

# LAWN TENNIS

Lawn tennis was invented in 1873 by Major Walter C. Wingfield, a British Army officer. The sport had been created to delight both players and onlookers at lawn parties, then so popular among the aristocracy in England.[1] Unexpectedly lawn tennis, which is commonly referred to today simply as "tennis", did not linger in an experimental state but rather spread like wildfire throughout the English-speaking world. It was first introduced to Canada about 1874[2] and was being played in the area which was later to be Alberta as early as 1883,[3] just ten years after its invention. By the beginning of the twentieth century, tennis clubs had been formed in the future Alberta at Macleod, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Dunmore, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Lacombe, Strathcona, and Millarville.[4]

The Lethbridge-Macleod-Pincher Creek region dominated the tennis scene in the early 1900s. Open tournaments and inter-club matches were easily arranged as a result of the completion of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway in 1899. At Lethbridge on Dominion Day, 1900, four members of the Macleod Tennis Club defeated four members of the Lethbridge Tennis Club in a combination of singles and doubles matches, sixty-two games to fifty-one games.[5] Two months later the

Macleod Tennis Club held an open tournament consisting of gentlemen's doubles and ladies' singles competitions. In addition to the host club, tennis clubs from Pincher Creek, Lethbridge, North Fork, and the Blood Indian Reserve were represented.[6] Speaking of this tourney, the Macleod Gazette stated that:

> It is understood that there was the largest gathering of tennis players at the tournament that has ever assembled in the Northwest. During the afternoon about a hundred and fifty spectators assembled to watch the games, at the tennis grounds. All those at the grounds were treated to tea and cake by members of the Macleod club during the afternoon.[7]

The results showed that North Fork defeated Macleod three sets to two in the men's doubles final, while Miss. A. Higinbotham of Lethbridge overcame Miss Galt of Lethbridge to win the ladies' singles title.[8]

Due to its origin, participation in tennis was not confined to club competition. Throughout the Alberta area, many affluent tennis enthusiasts from England and Eastern Canada built private courts in their back yards. Actually it was not an expensive proposition since all that was required was a smooth and level piece of ground, a net, and two poles. Tennis, like golf, was very popular among the ladies.[9] Owing to their active involvement, Saturday afternoon became a popular social occasion at most courts. Play usually featured mixed doubles matches, while the onlookers were treated to tea prepared by the fair sex.

As Alberta's population increased, the number of tennis devotees grew. For that reason, enthusiasts at Calgary in 1906 inaugurated the first provincial tennis tournament for the amateur championships (unofficial) of the newly-formed province.[10] Held on the two courts at the R.N.W.M.P. barracks, this tournament attracted 106 entries. Valuable challenge cups were presented by Hon. W.H. Cushing for the men's doubles event, by Mr. P. Burns for the mixed doubles event, and by Mr. L.H. Doll for the men's singles event. Completing the program were ladies' singles and men's singles (handicap) competitions.[11]

Because of its popularity, the provincial tennis tournament became an annual event and the foremost tennis competition in Alberta. It was held at Calgary from 1906 through 1912[12] and in 1914,[13] and at Edmonton in 1913[14] and 1915.[15] As a consequence of the War, this tourney was postponed in 1916, 1917, and 1918. The number of events contested at the provincial tennis tournament increased from five in 1906 to eleven in 1915. At Calgary in 1914 the schedule included gentlemen's singles (open and handicap), ladies' singles (open and handicap), gentlemen's doubles (open and handicap), ladies' doubles (open and handicap), and mixed doubles (open and handicap).[16] In the above open singles events, there were three multiple winners during this period. R.T. Beard, in 1906 and 1907, and H.G. Garrett, in 1908 and 1909, were two-time Alberta champions in the men's singles, while Mrs. Dudley-Smith, in 1908, 1910, 1911, and 1912, was a four-time winner of the ladies' singles title. Beard, Garrett, and Dudley-Smith were, at the time of their victories, all Calgarians.

From approximately 1908 to 1918, tennis increased in public favor at an astonishing rate as the result of several factors. First, the sport was adopted and nurtured by the church. One of the earliest references to the promotion of tennis by this institution appeared in the Edmonton Bulletin in 1907. It read "The young people of the Baptist church, with a large number of their friends, held a very enjoyable tennis tournament on the church grounds yesterday."[17] By 1914 church tennis clubs had become common throughout the province. Four Protestant denominations — the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian — appear to have led the way. The Central Methodist, Knox Presbyterian, and Anglican Young People's Association tennis clubs all prospered at Calgary in 1915.[18]

A second institution which played a part in popularizing tennis was the school. Encouragement by the schools to play tennis was of minor proportions when compared to their involvement in baseball, association football, track and field, and hockey. Nevertheless, it was a promoting influence, especially in the urban centers. In June of 1911 at Calgary, Western Canada College won the first scholastic tennis championship of that city when Johnson and Plummer defeated Bennett and Black of the High School, 6-3, 6-0.[19] Three years later tennis became an official sport of the Calgary Interscholastic Athletic Association.[20]

The attributes of tennis itself were another factor which enhanced participation. Like golf, tennis appealed to both sexes and to both the young and the old. Unlike golf, it was a relatively inexpensive recreational activity which could be pursued by the masses as well as by the upper classes. Beyond the fact that it caused a three-year deferment of the provincial tournament, the War had little effect on the development of tennis. The sport lost many active participants to enlistment, but their places on the courts were filled by other young men whose team sports had been negated because of the War and by a growing number of female athletes. Another positive attribute of tennis was that participation in this sport was not limited to villages, towns, and cities but was also popular at resorts and in country localities. Photographs at Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Archives indicate that tennis was played in the Calgary district, between 1910 and 1918, at the Bow Valley Farm, the Millar Ranch, and the A.P. Welsh Ranch.[21]

That tennis was a rapidly-growing sport in Alberta during the second decade of the twentieth century was easily ascertained from newspaper gleanings. Intra-club and inter-club tournaments were frequently reported, and new clubs were often formed to keep pace with the ever increasing number of participants. At Calgary the number of tennis clubs quadrupled between 1909[22] and 1915.[23] In the latter year, 1915, an article in the Calgary Albertan observed that:

> Popularity of the game of tennis has increased by leaps and bounds, until now there are more people playing the game in this city than any other branch of sport. Considering the large and varied athletic activity of the young people of Calgary, this is a pretty broad statement to make; but it is one which can be proven.[24]

Meanwhile, tennis had expanded to the Peace River country by 1914 because on July 1 of that year a tournament took place at Grouard, a town located at the west end of Lesser Slave Lake.

> On the board courts at the Hudson Bay post a tennis tournament was in progress from early morning till late evening. It is doubtful if there is another town in the Dominion the size of Grouard that can turn out so many excellent wielders of the racket.[25]

A year later in the capital city itself, the Patricia Square Tennis Club claimed to have the largest membership of any tennis club in Canada — a total of over 300.[26]

Tennis prospered throughout this era without the aid of a provincial governing body. This was due, in part, to the fact that tennis was a totally amateur sport and was therefore free of amateur-professional conflicts. Regardless, it manifested the great cooperation which was shown between the many tennis clubs.

## Footnotes

[1] Frank G. Menke, The Encyclopedia of Sports, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 897.

[2] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, p. 116.

[3] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, p. 53.

[4] Ibid., pp. 53-55.

[5] Macleod Gazette, July 6, 1900. Also, see Macleod Gazette, July 20, 1900, June 14, 1901, September 6, 1901, September 5, 1902, July 29, 1904, and September 7, 1905.

[6] Ibid., September 7, 1900.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Lethbridge News, September 6, 1900.

[9] For example, see Calgary Herald, June 11, 1903.

[10] Calgary Herald, August 30, 1906.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid., August 30, 1906; Calgary Albertan, August 26, 1907, August 17, 1908, July 21, 1909, August 8, 1910; and Calgary New-Telegram, August 14, 1911, August 12, 1912.

[13] Calgary New-Telegram, August 8 and 17, 1914.

[14] Edmonton Bulletin, August 25, 1913.

[15] Ibid., August 23, 1915.

[16] Calgary News-Telegram, August 8, 1914.

[17] Edmonton Bulletin, September 3, 1907.

[18] Calgary Albertan, September 11, 1915.

[19] Ibid., June 17, 1911. Also, see Calgary Albertan, May 18, 1912 and Edmonton Bulletin, May 2, 1918.

[20] Calgary Albertan, April 23, 1914.

[21] Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Archives, Calgary, Photo file numbers NA-89-4, NA-248-1, and NA-2540-7.

[22] Calgary Albertan, May 12 and July 14, 1909.

[23] Ibid., September 11, 1915.

[24] Ibid., July 10, 1915.

[25] Edmonton Bulletin, July 28, 1914.

[26] Ibid., August 28, 1915 and May 22, 1916.

# CHAPTER XIX

# MINOR SPORTS

For purposes of parsimony there are numerous sports which have been classified as minor. These sports were so categorized principally because primary source material, in particular the newspapers, paid little attention to them. From this it was inferred that participation in these sports was not extensive, that organization was of a low level, and that inter-town and inter-city competitions were limited or nonexistent.

## A. Minor Indoor Sports

### Badminton

The history of badminton in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918 is brief. The sport was first played at Calgary in 1910 when a few enthusiastic players and citizens, who had seen the game played in England, organized a club.[1] This pioneer badminton association, which included a number of female participants, restricted its membership to twenty-five because only one court, situated in Paget Hall, was available. R.T. Holman, secretary-treasurer, and S.G. Wheatley were the premier players. The War terminated the activities of this little club since most of its male members went overseas.[2] Nowhere else in Alberta was badminton reported played during this era.

## Carpetball

From bits of information referring to twelve-end games, skips, and rinks, it is probable that "carpetball" was simply another term for "carpet bowling", a sport which evolved as the modern indoor version of lawn bowling.[3] In any case, participation in carpetball during this era was very confined. The earliest newspaper reference to this sport was made in 1905 when the Calgary Herald printed that "A game of carpet balls was played between members of A.O.F. and members of L.O.L. last Tuesday. A.O.F. were victorious by 11 points."[4] Twelve years later, in 1917, challenge matches were in favor at Calgary's I.O.O.F. temple[5] while at Lethbridge, eight teams competed in the Lethbridge Carpetball League.[6]

## Fencing

Amateur athletic associations, Y.M.C.A.s, and military regiments in the larger towns and cities of the Alberta area often made provisions for fencing in their gymnasia. It was through these agencies that instruction and competition in this sport were obtained. But fencers were a rare breed and consequently competition was restricted to the local challenge level. Fencing gained some public exposure when exhibition matches were held in concurrence with gymnastics programs. In October, 1904, when the Macleod Amateur Athletic Association's gymnasium was refitted, new apparatus included fencing foils and singlesticks.[7] Three months later quarter staff combat, foil combat, and sword feats were three events demonstrated at the Macleod amateur club's first gymnastics display.[8]

In 1909 Banff boasted a fencing club. Somewhat perplexing, since further details were not available, is the fact that the master of this club was the world champion in both 1897 and 1904.[9] After 1909 no further developments of significance concerning fencing were reported.

## Gymnastics

Although gymnastics was a popular sport along the eastern seaboard and in Eastern Canada, the growth of gymnastics in Alberta was impeded by a lack of participant interest, the high cost of equipment, and the absence of instructors. Only in the larger centers were facilities, equipment, and instruction provided. Those institutes promoting the sport were the young men's clubs, Y.M.C.A.s, schools of physical culture,[10] along with various churches,[11] amateur athletic associations, and preparatory colleges. At Medicine Hat in May, 1900, the amateur athletic association of that town gave a program of entertainment at the close of its initial season of operation. Included were daring acts on the flying rings, a pleasing exercise with Indian clubs, horizontal bar acts, performances on the parallel bars, tumbling, and double trapeze routines.[12] In 1902 at Edmonton a gymnastics competition was held which attracted fifty-eight members of the Young Men's Institute.[13] D. Sibbald won the Barford Cup, which had been presented by Mr. Vernon Barford, for proficiency on the parallel and horizontal bars and in dumbbell exercises.[14]

Harry McKerran won the honors as the best all-round gymnast at Western Canada College's first annual gymnasium and boxing championships which were staged in June of 1911. On the parallel bars, German horse, horizontal bar, and in climbing the rope and tumbling, he scored a remarkable 96.5 points out of a possible 100.[15] That same year in Calgary, the 103rd regiment of a local battalion inaugurated gymnasium classes at their drill hall. In reference to these classes the Calgary Albertan stated that "Gymnasium horse, parallel and horizontal bars, springboard, ladder, mats and other gymnastic equipment will be installed."[16]

When the Lethbridge Y.M.C.A. was opened in 1911, gymnastics was one of the major activities fostered.[17] At Edmonton the Y.M.C.A. held its first annual gymnastics exhibition in 1914. Part of the program consisted of work on the high bar, horse, rings, parallel bars, and elephant, plus Indian club performances and gymnastic dancing.[18]

Gymnastics did not develop to the club level during this era. Instead, depending on the equipment available, gymnastics events were generally part and parcel of gymnasium, physical training, and physical culture classes.

## Handball

The earliest newspaper reference to the playing of handball in the Alberta region came during a visit by Tommy Burns, a former world's heavyweight boxing champion, to Calgary in October, 1910. Included in the elaborate program which had been planned for Burns was a game of handball to be played at the Calgary Y.M.C.A. "with F.F. Higgs and F. Payne, the two Calgary champions of the game."[19]

In spite of this beginning, handball was played only sporadically in Calgary until the winter of 1914-1915 when the number of participants grew rapidly. In February, 1915, an article in the Calgary Albertan confirmed this development.

> Handball as an indoor sport is growing in local popularity every day. Where there were perhaps a dozen or two enthusiasts playing it early in the winter, more than a hundred are now mastering the mysteries of the game.[20]

Much credit must be given the Calgary Y.M.C.A. for popularizing handball. Because of an increasing number of participants, this "Y" expanded their facilities in 1916 to one outdoor and two indoor courts. At this time handball was in vogue among Calgary's businessmen; one article in the Albertan sports section was entitled "HANDBALL BECOMING SPORT OF ALL SPORT FOR BUSINESSMEN."[21]

In 1918 the initial inter-city handball competition within Alberta took place at Edmonton. C.F. Peter of that city defeated Morton of Calgary in singles, and teamed with G.W. Robertson to overwhelm Morton and Richards of Calgary in the doubles match.[22]

## Roller Hockey

Calgary was the only center where roller hockey was played to any appreciable extent, and then, for only one season, 1908. On January 7 of that year the first roller hockey game in the history of Western Canada was played in Calgary at Sherman's Rink when the rink team defeated the "Scots" 4-3.[23] A month later the Calgary Roller Hockey League was organized embracing four teams — the Shermans, Eagles, Shamrocks, and Victorias; the Shermans eventually emerged as the league champions.[24] The lady roller skating enthusiasts were also attracted to the sport that year for on February 27 the Calgary Albertan described a ladies' roller hockey match which was well attended, the spectators knowing that the ladies' ice hockey games were full of excitement.[25] After 1908 participation in roller hockey decreased until the sport passed into oblivion with the end of the roller skating fad in approximately 1910. When the roller skating mania subsided, arena owners found that it was no longer profitable to open their doors for this sport.

## Roller Skating

Roller skating first came into prominence in the Alberta area at Calgary in 1885 and at Lethbridge in 1886.[26] However, between 1888 and 1906 enthusiasm for skating on wheels was lost as other sports expanded the ranks of their followers.

In 1906 at Edmonton Messrs. W.A. Childs, Stuart Cameron, and Edgar Lennox secured a lease on the Thistle Rink, ordered and received a large shipment of roller skates, and then opened their roller skating facilities to the public.[27] A year later W.B. Sherman was responsible for reviving this sport in Calgary when he remodelled the old Auditorium Rink, which became known as Sherman's Rink, and then opened it for seven hours each day, except Sunday, to roller skating enthusiasts.[28] One reason for the rebirth of this activity was indicated by the Edmonton Bulletin on September 17, 1906.

> Roller skating is getting a great run again in the east – especially since the little rubber-tired, bicycle-wheeled skate has come into vogue – and in Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal nearly all the big ice rinks become roller rinks in the summer time.[29]

Roller skating was both a recreational pastime and a competitive sport. As a recreation it was conducted in much the same manner as was noncompetitive ice skating, with bands and fancy dress carnivals adding to the enjoyment of the patrons. Competitively, races for both sexes were frequent attractions. At Sherman's Rink in Calgary in the fall of 1907 weekly ladies' and men's skating competitions proved to be overwhelmingly successful.[30] In a major competition held in December of that year, Jimmy Tomlinson won the fourteen-lap, one mile men's event when he defeated five other heat winners in a time of 3:11 minutes.[31] One month later Tomlinson outraced the fourteen-year-old Edmonton champion, Harold Vanbushkirk, in a one mile contest and thereby claimed the amateur roller skating championship of Alberta.[32]

Between 1906 and 1910 roller skating enjoyed great popularity as a fall and spring activity in several of Alberta's larger urban centers, particularly in Edmonton and Calgary. In November, 1907, the Bulletin remarked that "Roller skating has developed into an attractive amusement in Edmonton. The Thistle rink is crowded with skaters every Tuesday and Friday evening, band nights."[33] By 1910, however, using the extreme reduction of newspaper accounts of roller skating as a criterion, it appears that participant interest had once again all but disappeared. To a great extent, the demise of roller skating was due to the fact that in the fall it was surpassed in participant appeal by other sports, for instance, basketball and Canadian rugby, and in the spring there was a tendency to ignore it because of the overlapping seasons between winter sports like hockey and curling, and summer sports such as golf, association football, trap shooting, rifle shooting, lawn tennis, and baseball.

## Table Tennis

Table tennis was commonly referred to as ping-pong during the period under examination. According to Menke,

Figure 25. The Lethbridge Y.M.C.A. Gymnastics Club, ca. 1912.

Figure 26. Calgary Shermans, champions of the 1908 Calgary Roller Hockey League.

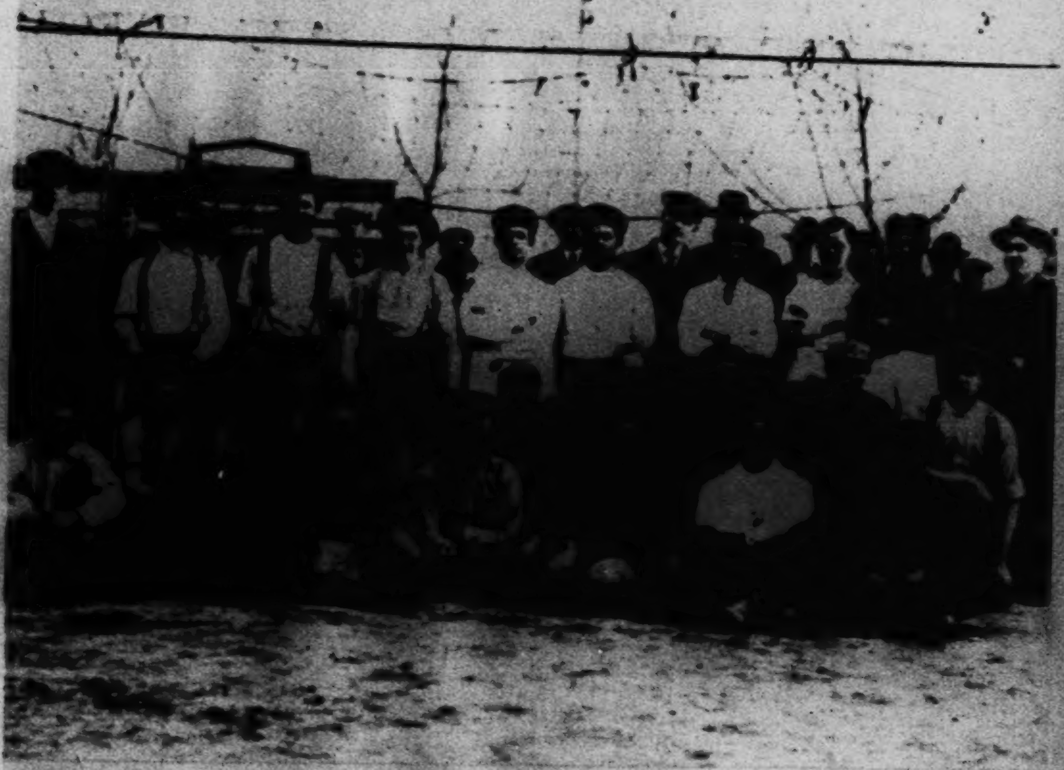

Figure 27. The Lethbridge Volleyball Club, ca. 1912.

this sport began to spread throughout the United States and Canada at the turn of the century, and reached its height of popularity during the first twenty-five years of this century in the United States before the autumn of 1902.[34] But "because it was treated as a 'craze' rather than as a permanent sport, it soon lost favor (after 1902) and was but a memory for more than a generation here (in the U.S.A.) ...."[35] There is no reason to believe that this trend was not duplicated in Canada. In his thesis, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Jones does not have a single reference to participation in ping-pong after the year 1902.[36] No doubt, however, it continued to be played occasionally in private homes and clubs.

Corresponding to its ascendancy in the United States and in Eastern Canada, ping-pong jumped into the limelight in the Alberta area in 1902. A club was organized at Strathcona[37] while tournaments were reported at Edmonton,[38] Fort Saskatchewan,[39] Macleod,[40] and Lethbridge.[41] It was a common practice for fraternal societies, churches, and different clubs to sponsor tournaments as moneymaking schemes. In July, 1902, at Lethbridge, the Chinook Club held a single-elimination handicap competition wherein the proceeds were devoted to the decoration of the walls of the Club rooms.[42] The following year a tourney, consisting of open singles, handicap singles, and mixed doubles, was scheduled to take place at the Alexander Hall in Calgary. A fee of twenty-five cents was to be charged each competitor in each event and the proceeds were destined for the Church of the Redeemer building fund.[43] Illustrating further, at the general meeting of the Ranchmen's Club of Calgary on May 19, 1903, the classified statement of revenue and expenditure for the year ending April 30, 1903, included "Ping-pong ...... $84.70."[44]

Since the Alberta area newspapers are void of table tennis happenings between 1904 and 1918, it is assumed that the sport lost its public appeal at this time as it had in other parts of Canada and in the United States.

## Volleyball

Because volleyball, like basketball, is a Y.M.C.A.-invented sport, it comes as no surprise that it was introduced into Alberta and promoted by this institution.

One of the earliest testimonies to volleyball being played in the province is a photograph, dated "circa 1912", which is located at the Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Archives and depicts the Lethbridge Volleyball Club posing on an outdoor court.[45] The sport was started in earnest at the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. in October, 1913, when a ten-team Y.M.C.A. and a four-team businessmen's league were formed.[46] These leagues operated successfully indoors throughout the winter of 1913-1914. At Calgary the first reported league was a four-team businessmen's circuit, which was organized in March of 1917 at the Y.M.C.A. and which attracted a great deal of interest.[47] Volleyball was publicized as an ideal game for the businessman because "the danger of physical strain or injury is at a minimum, while the maximum amount of training in quick thinking and agility is mixed with a lot of real fun."[48]

During and following the War volleyball slowly gained in participant popularity. This led to the initial inter-city competition which was held in March, 1918, and took the form of a six-game, home-and-home series between the Calgary and Edmonton Y.M.C.A.s. The Calgary "Y" easily defeated their northern counterparts and thereby claimed the provincial volleyball championship.[49]

## Wrestling

At the turn of the century, organized wrestling matches among the male population of the future Alberta were very uncommon. In fact Reid in his thesis, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900", found only one written reference to a wrestling match.[50] The sport had few supporters and consequently was not remunerative on a professional basis. In addition, distances between aspiring competitors were often prohibitive.

After 1900, as immigration into the Alberta area rapidly increased and as two Americans, Tom Jenkins and Frank Gotch, popularized the catch-as-catch-can style, the participant and spectator appeal of wrestling grew. The earliest reference to the sport by the Edmonton Bulletin was made in 1902 when a contest for the Northern Alberta championship (unofficial) was reported: "The contestants are M.S. Madsen, of Ponoka, and Vic Campbell, of Wetaskiwin, and will be the best two in three (falls) catch-as-catch-can. The purse is $25 and door receipts."[51]

Between 1900 and 1910 the challenge match evolved as the most popular form of competition. Challenges, both local and provincial in scope, were made via the newspapers. For example, in 1906 the Bulletin printed the following challenge.

> J.F. Curran hereby offers Blatchford (Ken) and Raymer (Ed) a handicap of two falls each in one hour, for a purse of $100. The match to take place within one week. Catch-as-catch-can wrestling. The money is on deposit in the Bulletin office to be covered.[52]

Although the catch-as-catch-can method of wrestling, which is known today as free-style, was favored by most grapplers, occasional bouts were conducted according to the Greco-Roman or the Police Gazette rules.

Much of wrestling's attraction in the first decade can be attributed to the side bets that were laid on the matches. These wagers, unfortunately, did not always prove beneficial for the sport because they sometimes resulted in competitions being prearranged by bribery.[53] This factor was one reason why wrestling did not gain widespread public approval. In 1908 when George "The Greek" of Calgary fought Billy Emerson of Seattle for the heavyweight wrestling championship of Alberta (unofficial) the gate amounted to only seventeen dollars. As the expenses totalled $100 the men wrestled to see who would make up the balance and

Emerson was the one.[54] A novel method was adopted at Edmonton that same year in an attempt to heighten interest in the sport. In a preliminary match of a card which featured "Kid" Parker versus Kenny Blatchford in the main event, Mrs. Parker grappled Miss King of Seattle.[55]

In the second decade when amateur wrestling at the Y.M.C.A.s, amateur athletic clubs, private physical culture schools, preparatory colleges, and University of Alberta became more organized, the professional challenge matches became progressively less frequent. The Edmonton and Calgary Y.M.C.A.s first offered wrestling instruction in 1908[56] and 1909[57] respectively. In 1911 at the University of Alberta a wrestling and boxing club proved to be a welcome addition to the intramural sports program of that institution.[58] City amateur championships were initially conducted at Calgary in 1911[59] and at Edmonton in 1913.[60] Both of these championships were held under Y.M.C.A. direction. It is of interest to note that in November, 1911, after he had captured the Calgary amateur middleweight and heavyweight titles, William Martland was pitted against Frank Gotch in an exhibition at Sherman's Arena. Gotch, the reigning world's heavyweight catch-as-catch-can wrestling champion, demonstrated his prowess when he pinned Martland three times in sixty-five seconds.[61]

Despite the fact that there was no provincial administrative body for wrestling, Alberta championship tournaments (unofficial) were staged at Calgary in 1913,[62] and at Edmonton in 1914[63] and 1915.[64] Obviously there was some positive liaison between wrestling enthusiasts in the province. The champions of 1914 were Max Sadowski, Lethbridge (bantamweight); A.A. Dower, Edmonton Y.M.C.A. (featherweight); Harry Crowe, Calgary Y.M.C.A. (lightweight); Paul Lewis, Lloydminster (welterweight); Hugh McLaren, Calgary Y.M.C.A. (middleweight); and L.M. Smith, University of Alberta (heavyweight).[65] All amateur contests were fought in compliance with the catch-as-catch-can rules, strangle-hold barred; however, the length of matches varied in duration from six to fifteen minutes depending on the center and the club in which they took place.

## B. Minor Summer Sports

### Auto Racing

The first automobile was introduced into the Alberta area by Billy Cochrane of High River in August of 1903.[66] In the ensuing years, motorcars became more numerous as this mode of transportation became increasingly popular. By 1913 there were 3,773 autos in Alberta;[67] six years later the number totalled 34,000.[68]

Wherever there has been a form of transport, there has always followed a desire to race. In reference to the automobile, this adage was borne out in Alberta less than three years after the arrival of the first internal combustion engine, for in early July, 1906, automobile races were reported at Edmonton and Calgary. The two and one-half mile race at Edmonton took place on the one-half mile exhibition track and was won by Clare Watts in 4:40 minutes.[69] Meanwhile at Calgary,

> The automobile races being a great novelty attracted much attention. The two mile race for touring cars was won by J.J. Young with R. White second. In the mile race for runabouts W. Hillier came in first and Stewart Mackid second.[70]

It is of significance to note that the above automobile race in Edmonton was held in conjunction with the agricultural fair, while in Calgary the races were part of the sports program during the annual ex-American celebration. Due to a lack of interest and to the paucity of automobiles, auto racing clubs were nonexistent until 1911. In that year the Calgary Motor Racing Association, under the guidance of Daniel W. Trotter, held a one mile handicap race on a South East Calgary Corporation boulevard. Entrants in this contest did not race against each other but, instead, against time. The Calgary News-Telegram explained why: "In this way the chance of an amateur driver becoming excited and smashing into another man and his racer will be minimized."[71] This competition, which was represented by the News-Telegram Cup, was won by T.H. Grasswick who drove a powerful "30" over the course in 1:13 minutes.[72]

In 1912 Barney Oldfield and his professional partners, Lew Heinnemann and "Wild Bill" Fritsch, were enticed by the cities of Calgary and Edmonton to perform in this province. At the time, Oldfield was one of the greatest dirt track racers in the world and a former world land speed record holder.[73] Oldfield and his associates were scheduled to race at the exhibition track (Victoria Park) in Calgary on July 27, at the south side track in Edmonton on July 31, and at Calgary's new Gridiron Speedway on August 10.

Located several miles south of Calgary, the Gridiron Speedway was conceived by Dan Trotter, who was the secretary-treasurer of the South East Calgary Corporation Limited, a land-developing firm. The two mile straightaway cost in the neighborhood of $15,000[74] and was one of the finest tracks in the world. Major Jno. B. Jeffery, dean of the Chicago Press, and Mr. C.E. Ferguson of the New York Press, who were guests of the South East Calgary Racing Association at the opening of the Speedway on August 10, 1912, spoke of it in glowing terms.

> The Gridiron Speedway is unique in its construction in many ways; its gradients are scientifically worked out by the best of engineers and reduced to a perfect straight-edge by the human eye, all regardless of expense, to make it, as now regarded, the fastest track on earth, and the marvel of the civilized world.[75]

In addition, a telegraph signal service, which was actually an electrical timing apparatus, was installed to conform to the rules of the American Automobile Association.

Largely due to the presence of Oldfield and his 300-horsepower "Christie", Alberta residents demonstrated that they were enthusiastic auto racing supporters. Over 10,000 persons attended the speed carnival at Victoria Park in Calgary,[76] and another 3,000 viewed a superb exhibition of automobile racing at Edmonton's south side track.[77] However these two exhibitions were dwarfed in significance by the events which transpired at the Gridiron Speedway on August 10. There, before 4,000 spectators, Oldfield set two new world records while "Wild Bill" Fritsch claimed a third.[78] The astounding news of three world records set on the same day on the same track was immediately wired to both the Associated and the International Press. The following day newspapers throughout the world carried the story of "BARNEY OLDFIELD'S FLIGHT". Part of the article read:

> Oldfield starred in two performances: First, for the one-mile world's record, which he negotiated in 41 4-5 seconds; second, for the half mile in 18 1-5 seconds. In both these spectacular events his powerful 300 H.P. Christie car roared like a mighty bullet in its meteoric flight to the finish line, where four time-keepers with stop-timers recorded the time which was immediately announced to the anxious crowd of spectators, who, with a wild burst of enthusiasm, realized that South-East Calgary now owns the two great world's records, and the fastest track in the world.[79]

Moreover, the article was lavish in its publicity of Calgary and in particular, of the South East Calgary Corporation Limited.

Another world record, this one unofficial, was set at Calgary in 1913. Bob Burman, the world's land speed record holder between 1911 and 1914,[80] established a new one mile mark on an unbanked half mile track. Racing at Victoria Park he covered the distance in 1:05.5

minutes.[81] As part of the program which was held in conjunction with Burman's exhibition, a novel and unique sport, auto polo, was introduced to the Calgary auto racing fans. This sport featured two contestants who, while driving automobiles, attempted to knock a heavy ball into their opponent's goal with the use of a large mallet. Besides being the first, this was probably also the last exhibition of auto polo in Calgary since the devoted lovers of automobile racing found the game to be extremely dull entertainment.[82]

There is little doubt that it was the overwhelming interest shown by Albertans during the speed carnivals of Oldfield and Burman that attracted the professional automobile racing circuit to the province in 1917 and 1918. Sanctioned by the International Motor Contest Association, these races were the major attraction at the Calgary and Edmonton exhibitions. Both exhibition associations offered $3,000 in prize money per meet.[83] Once again auto racing proved to be a popular spectator sport for a July, 1918, issue of the Calgary Canadian stated:

> Manager Richardson had some difficulty in accommodating the large crowd that wanted to see Thursday's automobile races on the exhibition track. Calgary finds motor racing much to its liking, and the crowd on the first racing day numbered over 10,000.[84]

The events contested on the second day of racing at the 1918 Edmonton exhibition were characteristic.

> Event No. 1 – Distance 3 miles (for cars of 300 cubic inch displacement and less). Prizes:

> First, $200; second, $100 ...
> Event No. 2 — Distance 5 miles (for cars of 301 to 450 cubic inch displacement). Prizes: First, $300; second, $200.
> Event No. 3 — Distance 5 miles — Special event, Australian pursuit handicap (entries limited to four cars)... Prize: $200 to car finishing first ...
> Event No. 4 — Distances to be announced. Exhibition time trials. To car making the fastest time, $100; to car making the fastest time, if the Canadian official track record ... is broken, $200; to car making the best time for any lap, $200. Entries will be announced before starting and any car or driver is eligible holding I.M.C.A. card.
> Event No. 5 — Distance 2 miles — Match race, purse $500. Eight entries made for this race, but starters limited to six ...
> Event No. 6 — Distance 20 laps — Alberta Sweepstakes. Prizes: $1,000, first; $500, second; $200, third.[85]

The Australian pursuit handicap race began with the entrants in staggered positions. During the competition cars that were overtaken were required to drop out of the race. Unless one car had passed all other cars by the end of the tenth lap, the checkered flag was given and a winner was declared.[86]

Auto racing in Alberta during this era, despite being an extremely popular spectator sport, was not a common participant sport. Automobile owners were more concerned with encouraging the building of roads and with taking part in auto tours, which were sometimes referred to as motoring runs, than they were with competitively racing their costly cars. As a medium through which the owners could collectively improve their lot, automobile clubs were formed in the larger centers.[87] A typical club was the

1911 Calgary Automobile Club which had as its objectives:

> Good roads; the regulation of a uniform speed limit in various parts of the city and the full observance of the speed laws; the inauguration of picnics, country runs and the ultimate establishment of a club house; the extension of an invitation to the hospital authorities to the use of club member's cars for the purpose of driving convalescent patients about the city and in the country.[88]

Opportunities for competition among Alberta's amateur auto racers were indeed rare. In 1913 the Calgary Automobile Club, in an effort to foster participation in the sport, held its first annual race meet. Consisting of eleven events, the meet was dominated by Carl Grasswick of Calgary who won the five mile handicap, the five mile D.E. Black Cup race which was emblematic of the Alberta championship (unofficial), and the ten mile free-for-all.[89] Interestingly, Mrs. Carl Grasswick, as a contestant in the slow race, was the only lady driver to participate in the competition.[90] Although initially successful, the Calgary Automobile Club's annual race meet was terminated as a result of the War. Occasionally in rural Alberta, automobile races were held in conjunction with holiday celebrations or agricultural fairs. For example, "Foot races, horse races, and in 1917 automobile races were held in the summer as part of the Village of Barons' yearly celebration."[91] But for the most part, the sport did not attract participation.

## Bicycling

Bicycle racing in the region under examination reached its peak in participant popularity during the 1890s. Clubs were active in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Fort Macleod, Calgary, and Edmonton, and annual meets highlighted each season's competition.[92] Enthusiasm was so great in Medicine Hat that the bicycle club in that town built Bicycle Park, "a half-mile banked track, thirty feet wide, with a six foot rise on the turns and a three foot rise on the stretch, a first for western Canada."[93]

In the early years of the twentieth century bicycle racing remained in public favor. Races were most frequently held in concurrence with holiday and picnic sports, and agricultural fairs. Cash prizes usually awarded winning bicyclists. To illustrate, the bicycle events and the prizes offered at the 1901 Grand Summer Fair in Edmonton follow.

> ¼ mile open — $5 (first), $3 (second); ½ mile open — $7 (first), $3 (second); Mile novice — $5 (first), $3 (second), $2 (third); Mile novelty — each ¼, $2.50; Handicap — $5 (first), $3 (second), $2 (third); Also Canada Cycle Motor Co.'s trophy for weekly race.[94]

The conditions governing the above competitions were four to enter, three to start; and entrance fee, fifty cents.[95] Also in the early 1900s, series of road races extended throughout the summers at both Edmonton[96] and Lethbridge.[97]

However, by 1905 bicycle races in Alberta were, in most instances, no longer being held. One reason for the decline in cycling interest was the advent of the automobile. Bill Stephenson further examined the great bicycle craze of the 1890s and its decrescence.

> During the great bicycle craze, from 1890 to about 1902, the entire human race seemed to be either on wheels or just fallen off. The craze began with the introduction of the small, so-called 'Safety' machine, equipped with two wheels of equal size cushioned by pneumatic tires. It died about fifteen years later (around 1902) when a merger of U.S. manufacturers led to a drying up of the very publicity that created the industry.[98]

In Canada at the turn of the century a merger on a much smaller scale took place when several Canadian manufacturers formed the Canadian Cycle and Motor Company (C.C.M.).

Between 1915 and 1918, although bicycle racing was almost a dead sport, the practical use of the "two-wheeler" increased rapidly in the urban centers of Alberta. A notable percentage of the general public awakened to the possibilities for utility, exercise, pleasure, and economy that the bicycle afforded. This movement was given additional impetus when Canada originated "National Bicycle Week" in early May of 1916.[99] "The chief motivating factors for its inception appeared to be a need for increased recreational activities as well as commercial interests in the bicycle."[100]

Jones reported that "Norman Webster of Stavely, Alberta, won the Dunlop Road Race in 1916, 1917, 1921, 1922 and 1923. He won several Canadian Championships and represented Canada in the 1920 Olympics."[101] But since the Alberta newspapers virtually ignored Webster's accomplishments until 1919 and then stated that he had formerly lived in Toronto,[102] it appears as if the champion cyclist did not become an Alberta resident until at least 1918.

## Field Hockey

The earliest field hockey club in Alberta was formed at Calgary in April, 1914. In those days the sport was referred to as either grass hockey or lawn hockey. An article in the Calgary Albertan on April 7, 1914, gave an account of Calgary's newest sporting club.

> CALGARY GRASS HOCKEY CLUB IS LIVE ORGANIZATION. Games Being Played Regularly, and the Sport Will Be Boosted in Alberta.
>
> Grass hockey bids fair to become a real Calgary spring game. Already two teams, captained respectively by F.R. Butler and L. Lovell have played a game on Victoria Park, and although the former won by four goals to nothing, the play on both sides was fast and exciting.
>
> A club has been properly organized and games will be played regularly until the hot weather arrives.[103]

Grass hockey was exclusively a men's sport at Calgary in 1914. A year later the game was dropped from the sports scene because of the War.

## Horseshoes

Horseshoe pitching originated around 150 A.D. in the army camps of the Romans shortly after they began protecting the feet of their horses with iron footwear.[104] The sport persisted down through the ages inasmuch as the horse played a prominent role in everyday life.

In the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918 horseshoes was a popular diversion in the rural areas. Whenever farmers or ranchers gathered together at picnics or holiday celebrations the clang of horseshoe striking stake was a familiar sound. But because horseshoe pitching was more of a recreational activity than it was a competitive sport, very little newspaper space was given to it.

## Lawn Bowling

With the steady influx of Englishmen and Scotchmen into the Alberta region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, it is rather surprising that lawn bowls, which had been a popular sport in Great Britain for centuries, did not gain public favor in Alberta until approximately 1914. But there were reasons for this. First and foremost, lawn bowling was simply ignored in favor of other summer sports such as baseball, association football, lacrosse, athletics, cricket, golf, lawn tennis, horse racing, polo, rifle shooting, and trap shooting. In the second place, there was a definite absence of suitable grounds on which the sport could have been played.

Lawn bowling was introduced at Calgary in 1904.[105] Two years later, however, the Calgary Albertan concluded that "Lawn bowling does not seem to be popular in Calgary."[106] It was not until 1912 that the Calgary Lawn Bowling Club was established.[107]

By 1914 interest in bowling on the green had increased substantially in the larger centers of the province. In August of that year, boasting seventy-five members,[108] the Calgary club scheduled an open tournament for rink competition on the new green at the corner of Nineteenth Avenue and Fourth Street West. The entrance fee for each rink was set at $2.00.[109] At Edmonton, W.J. Magrath and B.A. Holgate went to considerable expense in laying out a large bowling lawn in conjunction with Highlands curling rink.[110] Elsewhere, fifty lawn bowlers in Lethbridge supported two clubs, the Galt Garden and the Empire, while a single club was reported active at Taber.[111]

World War I did not affect lawn bowls primarily because the participants in this sport were of the older generation which was exempt from military service. Moreover, participation by women was becoming increasingly popular at this time. Consequently the years 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918 saw continued growth and development in this sport. By 1916 three clubs flourished in Edmonton[112] while in Calgary the Albertan informed its readers that the city's sporting goods stores were "having a hard time supplying bowls for the different clubs."[113] In recognition of increased participation by the fair sex, the Calgary Lawn Bowling Club extended the courtesy of its bowls to the ladies for one day each week.[114]

As it grew in popularity, competition in lawn bowling assumed various forms. Intra-club matches were, of course, the earliest form and the most common at all times; but with the appearance of two or more clubs in Calgary, Edmonton, and Lethbridge, inter-club competitions were soon in vogue in these cities. Other centers that supported only one club were forced to initiate inter-town or inter-city games if they wished to test their skill beyond the intra-club level. One of the earliest inter-city matches took place in 1916 between the Edmonton and Wetaskiwin Lawn Bowling Clubs. Held on Dominion Day in Edmonton the host club defeated the visiting club by an aggregate score of 45-44. The results were:

| Edmonton: | | Wetaskiwin: |
|---|---|---|
| J. Armitage's rink 20, | versus | J. Watson's rink 12; |
| J. McTavish's rink 25, | versus | W. Loggie's rink 32. |
| Aggregate score: 45 | to | 44.[115] |

Another form of competition, the tournament, made its initial appearance in Central Alberta lawn bowling circles in 1917. Three rinks each from the Edmonton Civil Service, the Edmonton (formerly the Edmonton South Side), the Edmonton Highlands, and the Wetaskiwin clubs competed for the Hingston-Smith Cup on Dominion Day in Edmonton. Loggie and his teammates from Wetaskiwin emerged victorious.[116] A year later this tournament expanded to twenty-two rinks and was won by the George Knox foursome from Wetaskiwin.[117]

## Motorcycle Racing

Although there is no accurate indication when the first motorcycle was driven on Alberta soil, this happening took place sometime between 1903, when the first automobile was introduced, and 1912, for in that year both the Edmonton Motorcycle Association[118] and the Calgary Motorcycle Club[119] were active organizations.

The Edmonton Motorcycle Association held their initial reliability test on May 24, 1912, from the Edmonton post office fifty miles north on the Athabasca Trail and return. There were seven starters in this event and despite the fact that Andy West covered the distance in the best time, 8.19:00 hours, R. Williams was awarded first place since he accumulated more points.[120] No further details were given. A month and a half later, the Edmonton Bulletin reported that the first two motorcycle races ever held in Alberta were featured during the combined Dominion Day and Edmonton-Strathcona Amalgamation celebrations.[121] Tarbull won the five mile race in 8:06 minutes while Carruther was the victor of the ten mile event in 17:05.75 minutes.[122] Also in 1912, motorcycle races took place at Edmonton and Calgary in conjunction with Barney Oldfield's three auto racing exhibitions.[123] These races were divided into two classes, one for single cylinder and one for twin cylinder motorbikes.

By 1913 motorcycle racing was becoming a popular participant and spectator attraction at sports' days and agricultural fairs in most of the larger centers in the province. That year both the Calgary and Edmonton clubs staged their inaugural race meets. The following events were successfully contested at the Edmonton meet: five

mile single cylinder, private owners; five mile twin cylinder, private owners; quarter mile slow race, open; three mile strip stock, local trade; three mile side car, open; three mile tandem race, private owners; five mile twin cylinder strip stock, local trade; one mile novelty, open; seven mile twin cylinder, open; pursuit race, single cylinder; and ten mile twin cylinder strip stock.[124]

Through 1914 the status of the sport continued on par. The planned program of the Calgary Motorcycle Club included general social runs at stated intervals, race meets, hill climbs, reliability tests, and endurance runs.[125] Further, it is interesting to note that the five mile race which was held during the 1914 Labor Day sports in Calgary was won in 6:40 minutes, a considerably faster time than that which won the first five mile race at Edmonton two years earlier.[126]

Between 1915 and 1918 interest in motorcycle racing waned. This was principally due to Alberta's high recruitment percentage during the War, and to the tragic death of Scotty Lewis in a motorcycle race at Calgary in May, 1915.[127]

## Mountaineering

Mountain climbing was a rare activity in the Alberta area until the railroads made the Banff and Jasper National Park regions accessible. Then, with the availability of professional guides from Switzerland, who were contracted by the Canadian Pacific Railway, participant enthusiasm in the sport increased. A Banff Springs Hotel advertisement in 1901 publicized "SWISS GUIDES For Mountain Climbing And Exploration."[128]

The formation of the Alpine Club of Canada in 1906 played a large part in popularizing mountaineering. This club was worldwide in scope operating through local committees at Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, New York, and London, England.[129] In 1907 thirty-eight of the 100 active members[130] and fifty-six of the 133 graduating members[131] of this club were residents of Alberta. Active members were defined by the Alpine Club of Canada as:

> a) Those who have made an ascent of not less than ten thousand feet above sea-level in some recognized mountain region; their eligibility for election to be decided by the Executive Board.
> b) Those who for eight years prior to the date of organization have been annual visitors to Canada's mountain regions and have contributed to a knowledge of the same by means of scientific or artistic publication.[132]

Graduating members were defined as "those who desire to become Active members, but are not yet qualified. They will be given two years to qualify, but such probation is not renewable."[133] In 1909 the Club erected a clubhouse on Sulphur Mountain at Banff to serve as its summer headquarters. Here members were rallied for alpine work in the Rockies, and camps with accommodation were established at advantageous points so that parties could go from one to another at times suitable to them.

To a great extent, mountaineering was a sport of the upper class. The expense of guide fees, elaborate equipment, and weeklong excursions was prohibitive to the average middle class wage earner. Wives often accompanied their husbands on mountain climbing trips and became avid mountaineers themselves. Because their ankle-length skirts and dresses proved too dangerous, ladies on the slopes were usually outfitted in knickers, shirtwaists, woolen stockings, and hobnailed boots which were laced to the knees or arranged with puttees.[134]

## Plowing

The Alberta area during this era was rural orientated. In 1906 the farming population, 127,379, represented over two-thirds of the total population[135] while the 1914 figure, 300,000, comprised more than three-fifths of the province's residents.[136] The total acreage under cultivation increased from 650,000 acres in 1906 to 2,500,000 acres in 1914.[137] It was in this setting that farmers occasionally pitted their workhorses and their own skills in plowing competitions. For example, an article in the Calgary Albertan in 1917 read:

> PLOWING MATCH SPENDID SUCCESS
> The plowing match held yesterday afternoon at Osborne's ranch was a splendid success and produced some very high class work in the tilling of soil. There were twice the number of spectators as last year ....[138]

Events contested in the above competition included walking plow, sulky plow, best conducted team during match and best "ins" and "outs", greatest furrow and best crown, and best finished work most suitable for a binder.[139] Unfortunately, information is sketchy regarding the conditions that governed such events. Obviously, however, the time element was of primary importance in walking plow and sulky plow contests while skill was the major criterion which determined winners in the other events.

### Pushball

Pushball was invented in New England in the early 1890s,[140] and during the next three decades spread slowly throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. The sport was played on a level field 140 feet long and seventy-five feet wide with goals sixteen feet in width at each end. Teams consisted of eight players aside – four forwards, three halfbacks, and one goalkeeper. This formation was taken when the ball was put into play at the start of a game or following a goal. The forwards lined up twenty feet from the ball, the halfbacks forty feet, and the goalkeepers on the goal line. At the sound of the referee's whistle all players started for the center of the field where the pushball had been placed. Players could then assume any position on the field which was within the rules. The object of the sport was to push the ball through the enemy's goal. A goal counted five points, and resulted in the teams changing ends and play resuming in the same manner as it had begun. A touchdown, which was also called a safety, counted two points and was scored whenever the pushball crossed the goal line outside of the goal. Following a touchdown the team that scored it was given a free rush from center. A referee whistled down infractions such as tripping, kicking, and rough play. He penalized the offending team ten feet on a first offence and awarded a flying charge to the opposing team on a second penalty.[141] Nevertheless, the sport tended to be very rough. Speed and strength were the motor fitness elements most desirable in a pushball player.

During this era the pushball was the largest and costliest ball used in any game. It measured six feet in diameter and cost in the neighborhood of $300.[142] Fashioned similar to a rugby football, the pushball was constructed of a rubber inner covering and a leather outer covering.[143] Because there were only four pushballs on the North American continent by 1917,[144] participation in the sport was not widespread.

Pushball was not played in Alberta until 1917 when eight-team tournaments were staged in both Edmonton[145] and Calgary[146] in concurrence with these cities' Spring Horse Shows. At Edmonton the Royal North West Mounted Police demonstrated how the game was played on horseback, and an exhibition match between two women's teams was featured. Following is an excerpt from the Edmonton Bulletin which vividly portrays the ladies' contest.

> When the pushball match between the teams representing the Women's Volunteer Reserve and the 'Vics' ceased hostilities yesterday afternoon the place looked as though a young cyclone had struck it and the players had the appearance of having been in the very middle of the cyclone.
>
> The 'Vics' won, nine to nothing, but it was not because the W.V.R.'s did not fight every minute of the time. Such a wild, surging mix-up of skirts and bloomers and jerseys and hair and sawdust and squeals and gasps was never seen before in Edmonton. Young ladies whose deportment in the drawing room is undoubtedly most exemplary, grappled with one another like demons and wrestled madly prone upon the ground, while the audience yelled encouragement until it fairly became hysterical ... Spectators, who had previously voted pushball tame, changed their minds and declared their willingness to go without their dinners, if necessary, in order to see more of the same thing.[147]

Almost simultaneous with its introduction, pushball became a popular spectator attraction in the province. The sport returned to Alberta in 1918 when another tournament was held in conjunction with the Edmonton Horse Show.[148]

## Quoits

Like horseshoes, quoit throwing in the Alberta area during this era was more of a recreational activity than it was a competitive sport. Consequently it attracted very little newspaper space which makes it difficult to ascertain its participant popularity.

Quoiting competitions usually took the form of tournaments which were held during picnics and holiday celebrations. One exception to this pattern was the quoit clubs that prospered off and on in the Calgary region between 1906 and 1918. In 1906 the Calgary Albertan stated that the Nose Creek Quoit Club had a membership of fifty, and "a good team will no doubt be picked to compete in games that are being arranged with other clubs."[149] A year later the Nose Creek club became the Pioneer Quoit Club of Alberta.[150] This new club scheduled a three-day tournament which was to begin on Dominion Day, 1907, in Calgary.[151]

Fostered mainly by older folk, the sport reached its zenith in Calgary during the last three years of the War. A sports page headline in 1916 read "THE GOOD OLD GAME OF QUOITS IS IN FAVOR AGAIN."[152] That same year Tuxedo Park and District, South Calgary (Bankview), and Capitol Hill all boasted active clubs.[153] In 1918 the Calgary Quoiting Association wound up a very successful season with an open tournament which was held on the grounds of the Central club at First Avenue and Second Street West.[154] This competition was won by D. Durnie of Calgary and J. Fairbanks of Crossfield.[155]

## C. Minor Winter Sports

### Broomball

Now and then on the ice surfaces of the arenas and rinks of Alberta the sport of broomball was substituted for ice hockey. Broomball was generally played between scratch teams; it never developed beyond the challenge level; and by the second decade it frequently involved both sexes. The following, from a 1917 Banff Crag and Canyon, is a typical excerpt concerning the sport.

> Two strenuous games of broomball were staged at the skating rink Tuesday evening. The spinsters were a little faster than the married ladies and got the best of the argument by a single goal. The boys hockey team have challenged the single ladies, when an interesting game of broomball should ensue. The Soldiers were successful in holding their citadel intact against the Suffragettes and made several brilliant counter attacks without however making any material advance. Cease fire sounded after sixty minutes struggle with honors even.
>
> The school girls played the young ladies Thursday evening. The latter team won out by a solitary point.156

## Ice Boating

Although it may have been participated in elsewhere, ice boating was reported only in the Bankhead-Banff region where the hard chinook winds often provided ideal conditions for it on Devil's Lake and Lake Minnewanka. Not only did the chinooks sweep the lake surfaces clear of snow, but they also furnished the necessary energy for enjoyment of this sport. In March of 1906 the Calgary Albertan informed its readers that:

> On Devil's Lake ... the sport (ice boating) has been taken up by Bankhead residents and on favorable days large numbers are to be found in the skeleton-like craft darting across the smooth surface of the lake.
>
> Mr. Standly, who has been at work enlarging his steamer and adding to his fleet of rowboats, was the pioneer in the sport this winter, but his lead was quickly followed by other Bankheaders.157

By 1909 it was possible to rent an ice boat at Lake Minnewanka for your own pleasure. Other enthusiasts made their own. Anything of a triangular nature having three pieces of iron as runners, and a pole sufficiently strong to carry a blanket or a sheet was deemed suitable.[158] Races were occasionally held; however, participation in ice boating was never great due in part to the uncertain weather conditions and in part to the danger involved. The lakes were not always clear of snow and the gusty winds provided a challenge to even the most-skilled "ice boater". It therefore appears that participation in this sport was related to the interests of a few individuals.

## Skiing

Skiing was introduced into the Alberta area in 1887 by Scandinavians who worked in Canadian Pacific Railway tie camps near Silver City, west of Banff.[159] In spite of this early beginning, the sport did not become competitive until 1911. In that year ski clubs were formed at Entwistle in January,[160] at Camrose in October,[161] and at Edmonton in November.[162] In all probability the Entwistle club was the first organized ski club in Western Canada.[163] This pioneer organization scheduled a ski festival for March 3, 1911, and invited competitors from Edmonton, Wabamun, and Junkins.[164]

The Fram Ski Club of Camrose held their initial tournament on January 31, 1912. Announcing it, the following advertisement was recorded in the Camrose Canadian.

Grand Ski Tournament
Under the auspices of the
Fram Ski Club
Camrose
Wednesday, January 31st
Commencing at 2:00 p.m.
Club Slide one mile south of town
on the Coal Mine road
Come and see the human flying
machines in action
Admission – 25¢[165]

The results of this intra-club event were carried on the front page of the local newspaper under the headline "Skilopet Pa Onsdag Var En Stor Norsk Festdag"[166] (The Ski Tournament on Wednesday was a Great Norwegian Festival). Adolph Maland won top honors with jumps of sixty-nine, seventy, and seventy-four feet.[167]

Later in the winter of 1912 the two major ski tournaments of this era were inaugurated at Camrose and Edmonton. On February 17, before 1,000 spectators, the Fram Ski Club hosted the first inter-club skiing meet to take place in Alberta. A.N. Engelbretson of Camrose won the jumping event at this meet while John Haugen of the Edmonton Ski Club captured the longest standing jump contest.[168] The following week at Edmonton, skiers from Camrose, Edgerton, and the capital matched skills in the earliest ski tournament in Edmonton's history. With two first-place jumps of eighty-four feet, John Haugen was proclaimed "Northern Alberta Ski Champion."[169] These two inter-club tournaments became popular annual affairs.

At the 1912 tournament in Edmonton members of the Edmonton and Fram clubs founded the National Ski Association of Western Canada (N.S.A. of W.C.).[170] According to both Lund and Howell, this was the first attempt in Canada to provide structural organization, to standardize tournament rules, and generally to promote competitive skiing.[171] As its initial project this fledgling association organized and directed the first Western Canada Ski Jumping Championships which were held in Camrose on February 28, 1913. At this meet Adolph Maland of the host club emerged as the winner and became the first ski jumping champion of the west.[172] Unfortunately the N.S.A. of W.C. could not overcome problems such as a lack of members, and related financial and travel difficulties. In the main, skiing had not developed sufficiently in Western Canada to support such a sophisticated organization and by 1917 the N.S.A. of W.C. had been disbanded.[173] One positive aspect about this association was that it gave skiing in Edmonton and Camrose some stability and a sound basis upon which to develop.

The yearly tournaments which were staged by the Fram and Edmonton ski clubs consisted almost exclusively of jumping events. One reason for this, suggested the Edmonton Bulletin, was that "Only a comparatively small number of people ... are acquainted with the sport (skiing) and in order to make the events interesting the spectacular ones only will be held."[174] In Camrose, Edmonton, and other Alberta centers, ski jumps varied in magnitude; the biggest was located on Connor's Hill in Edmonton measuring 170 feet in length and rising eighty-five feet above the takeoff.[175] The angle and length of a ski jump scaffold and the steepness and length of the landing slope were material factors which determined the distance of a jump. There were two classes of jumping, the standing jump and the points event. The standing jump was for distance only; nevertheless, a competitor had to retain his balance after landing until he reached the end of the course.[176] In the points event, one to fifteen or one to twenty points, depending on the competition, were awarded for style and character of the jump. One point was added for each foot of distance jumped, thirty points were deducted for a fall (touching with both hands counted as a fall), and fifteen points were subtracted for touching with one hand.[177]

Because of its breathtaking qualities, ski jumping became a popular spectator sport in Alberta's skiing communities. For instance, the Edmonton open tourneys in 1913, 1914, and 1915 lured 4,000, 5,000, and 5,000 onlookers respectively.[178]

Skiing was by no means confined to the Entwistle, Edmonton, Camrose, and Edgerton districts. Scandinavian immigrants, particularly Norwegians, were the primary promoting force behind the sport and wherever groups of them settled skiing was soon popularized. Clubs were formed at Calgary and Red Deer in 1913[179] and at Naco[180] and Cereal[181] in 1914. At Naco,

> The hills west of Cop Hill School, from whence it got its name, was the scene of many jolly ski parties. Skiers would ski all afternoon and then

> were invited to a home for a good hot buffet supper and played games till midnite. The Tipperary Ski Club started before Christmas 1914. Ingvald Holmen made the skis for most of the members. Skiers would meet at Cop Hill once a week.[182]

Meanwhile at Cereal in 1914, a ski jump was constructed from railway timbers by Norwegian employees of the Canadian Pacific Railway.[183]

In 1917 the Banff Ski Club was established by a group of local youngsters who were excited by the skiing competitions which were scheduled for Banff's first winter carnival.[184] So eager were these young boys that they even made their own skis. The skis were fashioned from hardwood slats secured from old toboggans while ski tips were made from the rounded parts of wooden cheese boxes. The harness was a leather toe-strap which was nailed to the ski, and the poles were usually old broom handles. Snow boots or leather mocassins were worn on the feet.[185] Following the inaugural carnival in February of 1917, Gus Johnson, a Norwegian ski jumper, organized the club properly and became its instructor.

Banff's first and second annual winter carnivals, which were held in February, 1917, and February, 1918, respectively, attracted skiers from Edmonton, Camrose, Calgary, and Revelstoke, B.C. Ski events contested at the 1917 winter sports gala were jumping and a men's cross-country race.[186] A boys' cross-country race was added to the program in 1918.[187] Besides ski jumping, the cross-country race was the only other form of skiing competition that was contested during this era. In 1917 a six mile cross-country event, the first of its kind at Camrose, was scheduled to take place at the annual tournament of the Fram Ski Club.[188]

John Haugen and Nels Willman of the Edmonton Ski Club along with Adolph Maland and Ole Evenson of the Fram Ski Club were the most proficient skiers who resided in the province during this era. Haugen held the Canadian record in the standing jump event for three consecutive years, 1913-1915.[189] Over this span of time he increased his record performance from 109 feet to 122 feet. All his records were established on the Edmonton Ski Club's jump. Alberta's best skiers regularly participated in tournaments at Rossland and Revelstoke in British Columbia. It was at Revelstoke in February, 1916, that Evenson won the cross-country championship of B.C. In winning, he traversed the seven mile course alongside Mount Revelstoke in 56:24.2 minutes.[190]

As indicated, the jumping meets attracted hundreds and sometimes thousands of spectators to the ski hills. But clubs soon began to realize that in order to keep them there the benefits of the sport had to be extended to all men, women, and children and not just to the jumping participants. The "thrill of sliding down a high wooden scaffold in order to leap one hundred feet to a steep hill below was not the type of recreation sought by the average prairie

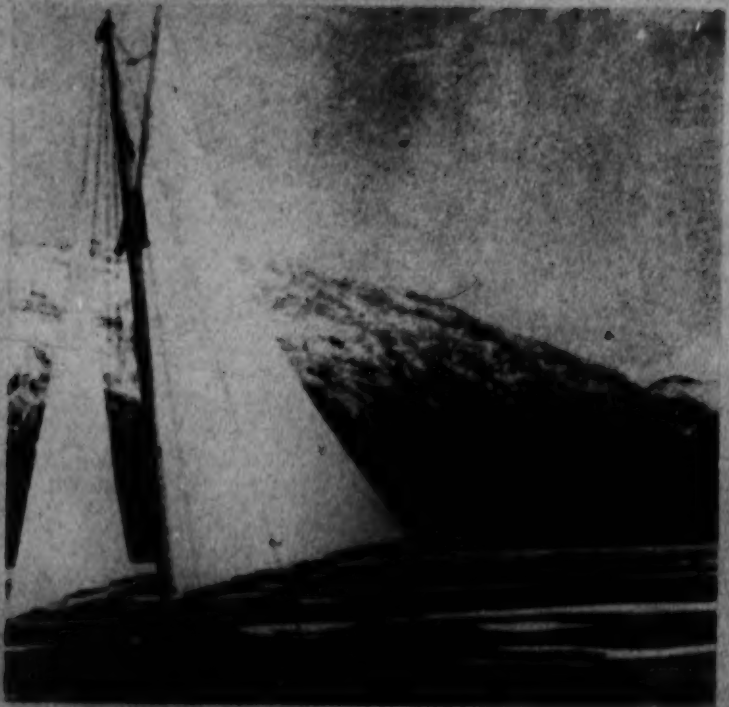

Figure 28. Ice boating in the Revelstoke, British Columbia area, ca. 1908-1912.

Prom Ski Club Tournament
Camrose. Feb.17-1912

Figure 29. Prom Ski Club tournament at Camrose on February 17, 1912.

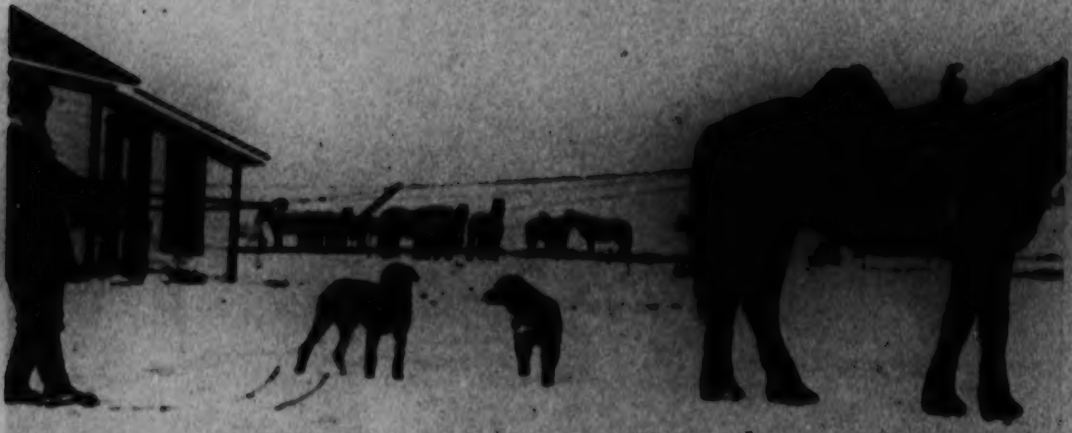

Figure 30. Skijoring at the Buffalo Head Ranch, 1913.

Figure 31. Snowshoe trip to Lake Minnewanka near Banff, 1908.

citizen."[191] Accordingly, women's and boys' downhill exhibitions, and boys' jumping competitions were initiated towards the end of this period. At Edmonton's annual open tournament in February, 1915, a special event saw Miss Inga Sandboe and Miss Gudrun Willman negotiate the landing hill of the ski jump. In reference to this achievement the Edmonton Bulletin noted that "they showed enough dexterity to convince the ladies in the crowd that the masculine sex has no monopoly on skiing."[192] Later that season the Edmonton Ski Club sponsored a boys' jumping tournament in which the youngsters competed in two divisions, one for those under twelve years of age and one for those aged twelve to sixteen.[193]

## Skijoring

There is no evidence of participation in skijoring in the Alberta region until 1913. In that year a photograph taken at the Buffalo Head Ranch depicts a man on skis who is guiding a saddle horse by using light reins which have been extended from the horse's bridle. There is no rider and the man is skiing approximately twelve feet behind his mount.[194] Certainly, in most instances, this form of transportation would have been less practicable than simply riding the horse.

The earliest date for competitive skijoring is probably 1917 when the sport was introduced at the first annual Banff winter carnival. Reporting on the results the Banff Crag and Canyon stated that

> ... the pony ski races for the J.I. Brewster cup took place on the Bow River. There were four entries and they finished in the order named: R.T. Rodd, Jas. Boyce, Jack Ballard, and Captain Jack Standly. This is a new sport in Banff, and proved exciting and interesting. The modus operandi is to fasten a pair of skis to one's feet, grasp a rope hitched around the saddle horn of a horse, with a rider, and endeavor to keep one's feet upon the snow or ice while the horse is sent over the course at a mad gallop. Of course there is an occasional spill which adds to the fun for the spectators.[195]

At the 1918 Banff winter festival a ladies' race was added to the agenda of events. First and second places in this contest were captured by Mrs. Johnson and Miss Clelland, respectively, who were both residents of Revelstoke, B.C.[196]

## Snowshoeing and Tobogganning

Snowshoeing and particularly tobogganning were moderately popular recreational pastimes throughout the Alberta area. Local history books, autobiographies, photographs, and social columns in the various newspapers indicate that many children and adults alike took advantage of the winter climate to organize and participate in snowshoe tramps and moonlight toboggan parties. On the other hand, the competitive aspect of these activities was rarely reported. One of the main reasons for this was that neither snowshoeing nor tobogganning could be adapted to the convenience of indoors and therefore they lost many prospective participants to sports such as curling, hockey, and basketball.

One of the few communities in Alberta to boast both a snowshoe club and a toboggan slide was the town of Banff. By 1910, or perhaps earlier,[197] the Banff Snowshoe Club was conducting daylong outings where groups of enthusiasts would sleigh to Lake Minnewanka in the forenoon and then snowshoe around the lake, eating their dinners out.[198] Between 1910 and 1918 material in the Banff Crag and Canyon furnishes evidence that snowshoeing grew in participant popularity among both the local residents and the winter tourists. But snowshoe devotees apparently preferred the relaxed, social atmosphere of the tramp to the intense, formal milieu of competition for racing was not reported at the National Park center until 1917. That year a one mile race for men and a one-half mile race for ladies attracted a large crowd during Banff's first annual winter carnival.[199]

The earliest toboggan slide at Banff was constructed in the winter of 1910-1911 and ran down Tunnel Mountain and onto Caribou Street.[200] It was one of Banff's most valuable assets for the remainder of this period inasmuch as it enticed more people to the town than did any other winter activity.[201] Toboggan carnivals were held regularly by the Banff Winter Sports' Club and were the equal of the ice skating galas which were so popular in other Alberta communities.[202] Nevertheless, like snowshoeing, there is no evidence of competitive toboggan racing until 1917 when

Banff's winter carnivals were inaugurated. Details of how the toboggan contests were conducted are scanty except that there were two separate classes, one for steel-shod toboggans and one for flat coasters.[203] Most probable, the fastest run, minus penalty points, determined the winner.

## Footnotes

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[5] *Calgary Albertan*, April 2, 1917.

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[8] *Ibid.*, January 13, 1905.

[9] *Banff Crag and Canyon*, May 8, 1909.

[10] For example, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, January 9, 1904.

[11] For example, see *Calgary Herald*, January 19, 1905; *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 11, 1907; and *Calgary Albertan*, November 22, 1911.

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[39] *Ibid.*, December 15, 1902.

[40] *Macleod Gazette*, January 31 and October 3, 1902.

[41] *Lethbridge News*, July 16, 1902.

[42] *Ibid.*

[43] *Calgary Herald*, January 8, 1903.

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[45] *Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Archives*, Calgary, Photo file number NC-2-519.

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[49] *Ibid.*, March 26, 1918 and *Edmonton Journal*, March 16, 1918.

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## CHAPTER XX

## RUGBY

The first game of rugby to be played in the future Alberta took place at Calgary in November, 1890.[1] The North West Mounted Police, many of whom were of British ancestry, were instrumental in initiating the sport in this region. In addition to Calgary, they introduced rugby at Lethbridge, Macleod, Edmonton, and Fort Saskatchewan in the 1890s. Residents of Lethbridge witnessed their first rugby game in 1891,[2] while Edmontonians saw their first match two years later when Clover Bar challenged the Edmonton club.[3] Rivalry between Edmonton and Calgary rugby teams began in 1895. On Victoria Day of that year, a combined Edmonton-Fort Saskatchewan team defeated Calgary 2-0 in Edmonton, while on June 19 the same Edmonton-Fort Saskatchewan squad overcame Calgary 8-5 in Calgary.[4] Somewhat surprising after this propitious beginning, newspaper gleanings evince that rugby was played only sporadically in the Alberta area for the next twelve years. This was due to the athletes and their supporters preferring four other summer, team sports: baseball, cricket, association football, and lacrosse. Rugby did not regain public favor until 1907.

Two problems face the sports historian in connection with rugby football in Alberta. Firstly, early newspapers often reported "football" games and leagues with little or no explanation as to whether the game played was rugby football or association football. Secondly, prior to 1907 the newspapers made no attempt to distinguish between English rugby and Canadian rugby. Canadian rugby, which was destined to become the modern-day Canadian football, was, during the period under examination, an evolving offshoot of the English sport of rugby football. As such, its rules were in a constant state of flux, and its character was confused by two opposing groups – those who advocated retaining the traditional English element and those who wanted change. Four major departures from the English game were the abolishment of the scrum in 1882; the rejection of awarding matches on the basis of goals and tries in 1891 and the adoption of a ruling whereby a goal kicked from a try scored six points, from a drop kick five points, from a flying kick or free kick four points, a try counted four points, a safety touch two, and a rouge one; the ruling by the Canadian Rugby Union (C.R.U.) in 1897 which stated "If in three consecutive downs, unless the ball crosses the goal line, a team shall not have advanced the ball five yards or taken it back twenty yards, it shall go to the opponents on the spot of the fourth down;" and the removal of the flying wing man in 1902 which reduced teams to fourteen players.[5] By 1909 the rule differences between English rugby and Canadian rugby had become pronounced. Cosentino summed up the general features of the Canadian game as it was played at this time.

> ... each team played with fourteen men. The ball was put into play by heeling it out. No interference was allowed, nor was tackling above the shoulders (scragging) or below the knees. A fair catch was part of the game as was the flying kick and a kick out. A touchdown simply meant that the ball was dead, while a try meant the score made when one side crossed the opponents' goal line.
>
> A pass occurred when a ball was thrown or handed by a player in any direction except towards the opponents' goal line, ....
>
> Although the game was divided into quarters of fifteen minutes each and the teams changed ends after each quarter, it was only with the start of the 1909 season that kickoffs to start each quarter were discontinued.
>
> When the ball went into touch, the side in possession had the option of bringing the ball into the field of play not less than five yards and not more than fifteen at right angles to the point where it went into touch.
>
> Possession of the ball was an important tactic ... and there were two ways in which possession could be maintained: by gaining ten yards, or by losing twenty yards in three consecutive downs. However, the twenty yards lost in three downs could only take place once in a series.
>
> Unfair or rough play was severely dealt with at this time. The player was either expelled from the game for the remainder of time or for as long as the referee deemed expedient. For severe offenses, such as interference, a team could lose the ball.[6]

In Alberta, because there was no demand voiced for adopting the Canadian rules until rugby was revived in 1907, it is highly probable that before this date old country rules had governed. It appears that the tide turned in favor of the Canadian game as a result of the large inflow of Eastern Canadians into this region after the turn of the century. Sturrock[7] supports this theory since most available information on rugby in the Alberta area before 1907 is included in his thesis, which is a historical analysis of English rugby in Canada excluding the development of Canadian rugby football. On the other hand, Reid,[8] in discussing this problem, states "... it would appear the game (which was played in the 1890s) was Canadian rugby football."[9] Reid, in defending his statement, cites the scoring system as reported in the Lethbridge Herald, and the fact that the Lethbridge club, in 1891, affiliated with the Manitoba Rugby Association which was, in turn, associated with the C.R.U.[10] Perhaps a version of Canadian rugby was played at Lethbridge in 1891. Hence, the two problems persist.

## Canadian Rugby

The 1907 rugby season in Alberta featured numerous inter-city games, all under English rules, between Edmonton, Strathcona, and Calgary. During and following this season, there developed among players, spectators, and media a strong desire for the Canadian adaptation of rugby football. Many Eastern Canadian immigrants were not conversant with the English rules, being more familiar with the wing line play of the Canadian game. The Edmonton Bulletin voiced the sentiment of most rugby enthusiasts in that city when it stated:

> ..., the general public of Edmonton, four-fifths of which is made up of American and Eastern Canadians, have expressed a desire to see the popular game of the east. They admit interest in the English game but it is because they like rugby and it is the only sampling of it they have got.

> The people who have witnessed one game of eastern rugby have gained a liking for the massiveness of it that the English game does not satisfy.[11]

Accordingly, in 1908 at both Edmonton and Calgary, intermediate and senior leagues played Canadian rugby exclusively. This sport proved to be very popular and most Albertans developed a penchant for it far surpassing the English game. As a result, the ensuing years saw Canadian rugby grow to assume a prominent place on the Alberta sporting scene while, at the same time, English rugby struggled to maintain its entity. The year 1908 saw Edmonton claim the Alberta championship when they defeated Calgary, 7-1 and 11-2, in a home-and-home series.[12] By virtue of these victories Edmonton won the Belanger Cup, which was also known as the Cecil Hotel Trophy. This Cup was donated by C.H. Belanger, proprietor of Edmonton's Cecil Hotel, as a perpetual trophy to be emblematic of the Canadian rugby championship of Alberta.[13]

Due to its newness and a lingering "English element" which appeared to hinder its development, Canadian rugby progressed slowly in 1909 and 1910. Nevertheless, this period saw most high schools and preparatory colleges adopt the sport, although games were restricted to the challenge level. In 1909 Western Canada College (W.C.C.) juniors defeated the Roman Catholic Convent 28-6 in Calgary,[14] while Westward Ho defeated McKay Avenue school 8-3 in Edmonton.[15] A year later the University of Alberta

(U. of A.), located in Strathcona, and Calgary's W.C.C. seniors played a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series to decide the first intermediate championship of Alberta (unofficial). This championship series resulted in a tie.[16]

Canadian rugby in the province took a giant step forward in September, 1911, when the Alberta Rugby Football Union (A.R.F.U.) was organized at a meeting in Red Deer. This union made provision for intermediate and junior divisions, affiliated with the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.), and adopted the playing rules of the Canadian Rugby Union (C.R.U.). The officers elected were C.H. Belanger of Edmonton as president, Rev. Robert Pearson of Red Deer as vice-president, and Vivian Graham of Calgary as secretary-treasurer.[17] A month later the Western Canada Rugby Football Union (W.C.R.F.U.) was established principally for the purpose of arranging and supervising championship games between the winners of the Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta unions.[18]

Provincially organized, Canadian rugby grew rapidly in Alberta, especially in Calgary. There in 1911 a three-team intercollegiate and a four-team junior Canadian rugby league operated with much success.[19] Moreover, the Calgary Tigers, who won the Alberta championship for the third consecutive year, captured the Hugo Ross Trophy, which was symbolic of the W.C.R.F.U. championship, by defeating the Winnipeg Rowing Club 13-6 before 2,500 fans in Calgary.[20] The Tigers were a team of stars. Bull Ritchie, "Doc" Gibson, Dr. Shillington, Mel Snowden, Arnold Wark, and "Squib" Ross had all made eastern rugby history;[21] in addition, Bill Dobbie was a fine halfback, who was also one of the best punters in the Dominion. In defeating Winnipeg, Calgary wiped out a 6-3, three-quarter time deficit. The Calgary Albertan described some of the action.

> It was Doc Gibson who in the third quarter after Winnipeg had scored a touchdown and placed themselves in the lead by a margin of three points whose brilliant line plunging turned the tide of defeat into victory; it was Doc Gibson who almost unaided carried the ball, by a series of line plunges, from beneath the shadow of his own goal posts right down to the Winnipeg thirty yard line. It was this rally in the third period, when the wind was blowing strongly against the Tigers thus spoiling Dobbie's punts, that really decided game in the favor of the Tigers....
>
> Bill Dobbie was the other man whose playing Saturday will always be remembered. Bill always could punt. He always could punt far. But he never punted further and with more effect than he did on Saturday, nor handled his opponent's kick with more accuracy. It was his trusty boot which was directly responsible for no less than twelve of the counters, for these points which do not appear to his credit in the tabulated score came as a result of his spendid kicking. On one occasion Bill punted the ball from the middle of the field back to the dead ball line, a distance of over sixty yards.[22]

As western champions the Calgary Tigers requested that the C.R.U. allow them to participate in the Dominion championship series of 1911. The C.R.U. denied this request, the reason being that the C.R.U. constitution specified that only members who joined that union at an annual meeting could participate. Since the W.C.R.F.U. had not even been formed when the C.R.U. held its annual meeting in January, 1911, Calgary's application had to be denied.[23]

Although they retained the Belanger Cup in 1912, the Calgary Tigers were forced to relinquish their hold on the Hugo Ross Trophy when the Winnipeg Rowing Club defeated them 4-3 in the W.C.R.F.U. semi-final.[24] A week later the Regina Roughriders won the western championship when they upset Winnipeg 5-0. This started the Roughriders reign. Between 1912 and 1920, excluding 1916, 1917, and 1918 when rugby football was not played on the Prairies, the Regina squad won the W.C.R.F.U. championship every year.[25]

In 1912 the W.C.R.F.U. did not foresee any difficulty in gaining membership to the C.R.U. since they had met all the necessary admission requirements. Therefore, when the C.R.U. did not entertain their application "in view of the many difficulties in playing final games owing to the great distances that intervene,"[26] Canadian rugby supporters in the west became irate with the eastern hierarchy. This anger was heightened in Alberta when the C.R.U. ruled the A.R.F.U. resolution, "to adopt the snap-back system of putting the ball into play, and in the counting of kicked points, the dead ball line be done away with due to the shortness of Alberta's playing fields,"[27] out of order. Consequently, at its second annual meeting which was held in January, 1913, at Regina, the W.C.R.F.U. severed all ties with the C.R.U.[28]

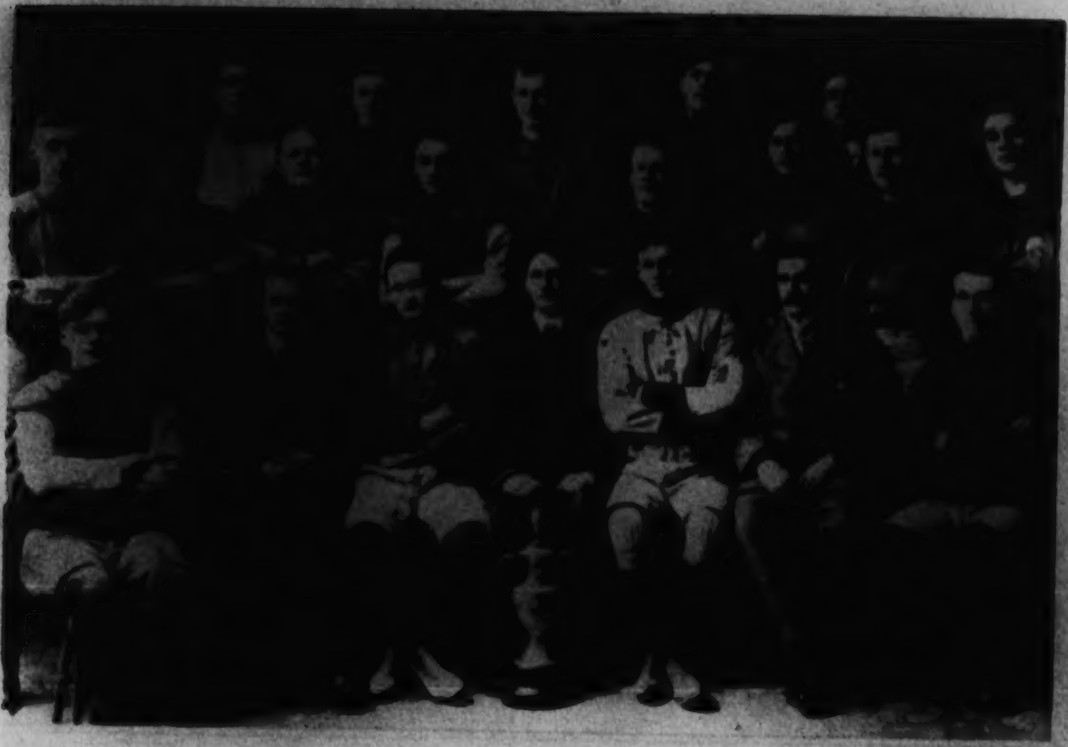

Figure 32. The 1910 Calgary Tigers Canadian rugby football team.

Figure 33. Fourteen man Canadian rugby football line-up, Edmonton, 1913.

Figure 34. Two piece rugby uniform, Edmonton, 1913.

Figure 35. The 1913 Calgary Tigers Canadian rugby football team. Note the yard markers on the far sideline.

By 1913 a dissatisfaction with the C.R.U. rules had become apparent in the west. Rev. "Bob" Pearson, president of the A.R.F.U., called the rules "a large percentage tradition," and went on to say that a person who was not familiar with the game would get a very hazy idea of it if he read the official rules.[29] The most offending of the regulations to Alberta rugby football critics was rule VI, section I.[30] According to the literal interpretation of this section, as soon as the scrimmager placed the ball on the ground the opposing players could charge. However, they could not touch the ball, nor could they interfere with it being put into play until it was touched by the foot of one of the scrimmagers.

At the same time, the A.R.F.U. continued to lobby for the adoption of the "snap-back" modifications. The driving force behind this movement was Rev. Pearson, who was very impressed by the "Burnside rules" which were in vogue when he played inside wing for the Queen's intercollegiate championship team of 1904. The "snap-back" modifications eliminated the two side scrimmagers, thus restricting the game to teams of twelve players, made it legal in a scrimmage to either snap the ball back with the hand or heel it back with the foot, and required at least seven men of the team in possession of the ball to be on the line of scrimmage at the moment the ball was put into play.[31]

Following the 1913 season, Alberta's rugby leaders voted unanimously to propose a complete revision of the rules, and other drastic rule changes, at the 1914 annual meeting of the W.C.R.F.U.

> In addition to revising the rules so that it will be possible for the ordinary person to understand the meaning of them, the Alberta delegates will ask that the new rules incorporate the snap-back system of putting the ball into play; that the two outside scrimmages be abolished, thus cutting the team down to 12 men; that scoring by kicks to the dead ball line be done away with; and that the "three yard rule" be so changed that it will be less difficult of interpretation but still will give a certain amount of protection to a half back receiving a kicked ball.[32]

The A.R.F.U.'s overture for the incorporation of the "snap-back" system and the abolition of scoring by kicks to the dead ball line did not meet with unanimous approval from the W.C.R.F.U. magnates and was tabled. On the positive side, Rev. Pearson was delegated to draft a new set of clearly-defined playing rules for the western union.[33]

The A.R.F.U. began experimentation with the "snap-back" game in 1914. It ruled that all junior and intermediate leagues had the option of playing this game and of abolishing scoring by kicks to the dead ball line, or of playing the conventional "scrimmage" game. All final championship games or series, however, were to be governed by the C.R.U. rules.[34] The 1914 Calgary Interscholastic Rugby League, which encompassed three-team junior, intermediate, and senior sections,[35] adopted the "snap-back" modifications. The new rules proved to be a big success as they evoked full endorsement from players, students, and the public. Reverting back to the "scrimmage" game in the provincial intermediate championship match did not hinder Calgary Collegiate Institute, the Calgary interscholastic league representatives.

> The statements of those who opposed the "snap-back" game and said that it would be difficult for a team to play "snap-back" all season and then, with a week's practice, play "scrimmage", were rather disproved on Saturday. Every player on the Hi team (C.C.I.) is strong for the "snap-back" rules, and went back to the "scrimmage" game with a great deal of reluctance but also with a great deal of success.[36]

Calgary Collegiate Institute defeated the U. of A. intermediates 7-1.[37]

Following the formation of the A.R.F.U. in 1911 and the subsequent Hugo Ross Trophy victory by the Calgary Tigers, Canadian rugby gained popularity rapidly in Calgary, Edmonton, and Strathcona (the city of Strathcona amalgamated with the city of Edmonton in 1912). In fact, prior to the War, it was the most popular sport in these cities during the months of October and November. Hordes of spectators regularly viewed junior, intermediate, and senior games. The Edmonton Bulletin described the 1913 Thanksgiving Day attendance at a Big Three League game in Edmonton between the Eskimos and the Calgary Tigers in the following terms.

> The attendance was one of the remarkable things. The crowd filled the grandstand and bleachers and lined the ropes seven or eight deep. Behind the first throng a long string of automobiles held hundreds of people and behind that again the tops of fences were thronged. The crowd did not stop even at that. Outside the fence on house tops, telegraph poles, mounds of earth and other points of

> vantage, hundreds of people followed the progress of the game. Inside the fence the audience numbered between 3500 and 4000 and outside there was fully an additional thousand.[38]

Although Canadian rugby was also played at Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, and Red Deer, it was not played on a province-wide scale. This was partially due to a lack of knowledgeable coaches and the high cost of adequate playing equipment.

When the A.R.F.U. inaugurated a junior and an intermediate series in 1911, Vivian Graham and "Doc" Gibson, respectively, donated trophies to be emblematic of the provincial championships of these divisions. From 1911 through 1914, high schools and preparatory colleges in Calgary, Edmonton, and Strathcona, and the U. of A. battled enthusiastically for possession of both the Graham and the Gibson Cup. Rugby, because of its physical contact element, was not encouraged among the younger boys of the public and separate schools.

World War I effectively stymied the development of Canadian rugby in Alberta. In the fall of 1914 the senior inter-city league, which was made up of teams from Calgary and Edmonton, was suspended.[39] Senior intra-city leagues did, however, operate in these cities in 1914. The University of Alberta emerged as victors of the Edmonton league and went on to defeat the Calgary Tigers, winners of the Calgary league, 20-15 in a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series to capture the Belanger Cup.[40] A year later there were no senior leagues at all. Calgary's lone senior squad, the Canucks, defeated the U. of A., Edmonton's only senior team, 18-12 in the sudden-death final at Edmonton to win the Alberta championship.[41] The Canucks were composed mainly of graduates from the Calgary Collegiate Institute. The importance of establishing a sport in the schools was reflected here.

At the A.R.F.U.'s annual meeting in November, 1915, it was decided unanimously to discontinue the senior division.[42] The War had taken its toll. In September, 1916, the following item appeared in the Edmonton Bulletin.

> Alberta rugby men, almost to a man, are now wearing khaki. Alberta University and the Calgary Canucks, who played off last year for the championship are now, almost without exception, over in France. Reverend "Bob" Pearson, president of the Alberta Rugby Football Union, was recently reported wounded. The fact that Alberta may be the only place in Canada, where rugby has always been played, in which it will not be played this season, is a distinction of which Alberta rugby men may well be proud.[43]

Although junior and intermediate Canadian rugby was played on a reduced scale in both Edmonton and Calgary between 1915 and 1918, no provincial championships were decided. The Calgary Interscholastic Rugby League continued to play the game successfully according to the "snap-back" modifications.

Canadian rugby was not played to any extent in the Alberta area until 1908. Capitalizing on the experiences which haunted and impeded the development of other team sports in Alberta, the Alberta Rugby Football Union was founded in 1911 on a thorough organizational basis. Alberta's pioneer rugby supporters had learned the importance of a strict residence rule, and the necessity of amateurism and affiliation with the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association. Consequently, Canadian rugby played during this era avoided major disputes, protests, and forfeits. Between 1908 and 1914 the sport grew to become the most popular fall attraction in Alberta's two major cities, Edmonton and Calgary. This province's greatest contribution to Canadian rugby football was her agitation for the acceptance of the "snap-back" modifications. Following the War, the A.R.F.U.'s rules for senior competition were modified to embrace the "snap-back" system and then in late 1920, the Alberta union rules were agreed to by other western member unions. Finally in April, 1921, the rules committee of the C.R.U., in revising the C.R.U. rules, made the new regulations very similar to the "snap-back" modifications which had already been adopted in the west.[44]

English Rugby

English rugby was played only occasionally in the Alberta region between 1890, when the first game was reported, and 1907 (see RUGBY). As mentioned, this was because the athletes and their supporters preferred four other summer, team sports: baseball, cricket, association football, and lacrosse.

In 1900 the Macleod Gazette reported "There was an impromptu game of Rugby football in the bottom on Tuesday last. No heads were smashed."[45] and "Several practice games of Rugby football have been played during the past week. There are no broken bones or heads yet."[46] A Calgary Rugby Football Club was organized in 1901;[47] but it was difficult to raise two sides of fifteen each and, as a result, no games were reported.[48] At Calgary in 1905, the Irish defeated the Scottish in a challenge match 11-5.[49] A year later three teams – the Bankers, a picked city team, and the Young Men's Club – were reported in that city.[50] There was also talk in 1906 of forming an Alberta Rugby League. "If a league could be started embracing the district from Edmonton to Macleod it would prove very popular. This game (English rugby) ... was popular here some years ago, but has been allowed to die."[51]

In 1907, due to the fact that many immigrants in Alberta from Eastern Canada and Great Britain were well acquainted with the sport, rugby football was revived in the cities of Strathcona and Edmonton and numerous intercity games were played between these two centers and Calgary. That year the game was played exclusively in accordance with the English rules. Edmonton claimed the provincial championship (unofficial) when they defeated Calgary 23-5 in the capital[52] and 10-5 in Calgary.[53] In Calgary 800-900 spectators turned out to view the game,[54] which signified a growing interest in the sport. But most rugby devotees preferred the Canadian game which was very popular in Eastern Canada at this time.

> The English game was played here this season and appreciated as far as it went, but that was only because the game as it is played in the East was not given a fair trial. The English game is, of course, a good game and it is older, but in Ontario, Quebec, and the eastern states where they play real rugby football they have an improved style that has attracted an attendance of as high as 4,500 people at one game.[55]

Subsequently, the rules of the Canadian Rugby Union (C.R.U.) were adopted in Alberta for the 1908 season. The Canadian game of rugby football proved to be extremely popular among participants, and attracted an ever-increasing number of enthusiastic supporters to its fold. From 1908 until the end of this era, Canadian rugby was by far the most dominant form of rugby to be played in the province. English rugby assumed a subordinate position.

English rugby was played sporadically in Calgary and Edmonton in 1909 and 1910, but opposition was impossible to find and the clubs could seldom muster enough members even for an intrasquad game. The city of Calgary nurtured English rugby practically by itself in the years 1911, 1912, and 1913. In August of 1911, the Calgary City Rugby Club defeated the Welsh team in three straight games to win the best-of-five series for the Calgary English rugby championship.[56] Two months later there was a game scheduled for Thanksgiving Day between Calgary and Okotoks.[57]

In Calgary, the interest shown towards English rugby by many of the immigrants from England prompted the formation of the Alberta British Rugby Union (A.B.R.U.) in March, 1912.[58] That year the Calgary British Rugby League was composed of three teams – the Wanderers, Welsh, and Pirates.[59] Black Diamond also had a team for in June the Calgary Albertan reported that a Calgary club had defeated Black Diamond 11-9 in Black Diamond.[60] In September, in an effort to promote the sport, an all-Calgary fifteen journeyed to Red Deer for an exhibition game against a team which was drawn from that town.[61]

The highlight for English rugbyists in Alberta during this era occurred in October of 1912. Under the auspices of the A.B.R.U., but paying their own expenses, a twenty-member Calgary all-star team travelled to Vancouver and Victoria for a three-game series.[62] The disparateness between the caliber of English rugby which was played in Alberta and that which was played at the West Coast was brought to light. Calgary lost all three matches by scores of 20-4, 26-0, and 45-3.[63]

A four-team league operated in Calgary[64] in 1913 and a year later, the Barbarian English Rugby Club revived interest in the sport in Edmonton.[65] The Barbarians played several intrasquad games and on May 25, 1914, defeated a visiting Calgary team 8-3.[66] But with the advent of the War, there was no further participation in this sport.

English rugby, then, was a very minor sport in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918. With but a few exceptions, the game was confined to Calgary and Edmonton and then was played only sporadically. The failure of English rugby can be attributed to a lack of participant interest which was due to the large number of summer and fall sports that were already established, and to the tremendous growth of Canadian rugby starting in 1908.

## Footnotes

[1] Douglas Norman Sturrock, "A History of Rugby Football in Canada," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1971, p. 77.

[2] *Ibid.*

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 79.

[4] *Ibid.*, p. 82.

[5] Frank Cosentino, *Canadian Football. The Grey Cup Years*, Toronto: The Musson Book Company Limited, 1969, pp. 14-16.

[6] *Ibid.*, p. 18.

[7] Sturrock, *op. cit.*

[8] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969.

[9] *Ibid.*, p. 50.

[10] *Ibid.*

[11] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 20, 1907.

[12] *Calgary Albertan*, November 10 and 23, 1908.

[13] *Edmonton Bulletin*, May 5, 1909.

[14] *Calgary Albertan*, October 23, 1909.

[15] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 6, 1909.

[16] *Ibid.*, November 1 and 7, 1910.

[17] *Calgary Albertan*, September 25, 1911.

[18] *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 23, 1911.

[19] *Calgary Albertan*, October 6 and 21, 1911.

[20] *Ibid.*, November 20, 1911.

[21] *Ibid.*, February 28, 1912.

[22] *Ibid.*, November 20, 1911.

[23] Cosentino, *op. cit.*, p. 48.

[24] *Calgary Albertan*, November 4, 1912.

[25] Cosentino, *op. cit.*, p. 49.

[26] *Ibid.*, p. 48.

[27] *Edmonton Bulletin*, January 12, 1913.

[28] *Ibid.*, January 20, 1913.

[29] Cosentino, *op. cit.*, p. 49.

[30] *Edmonton Bulletin*, September 18, 1913.

[31] *Calgary Albertan*, October 2, 1914.

[32] *Ibid.*, December 20, 1913.

[33] *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 2, 1914.

[34] *Ibid.*, September 19, 1914.

[35] *Calgary Albertan*, September 29, 1914.

[36] *Ibid.*, November 16, 1914.

[37] *Ibid.*

[38] *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 4, 1913.

[39] *Ibid.*, September 19, 1914.

[40] *Ibid.*, November 23, 1914.

[41] *Calgary Albertan*, October 18, 1915.

[42] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 8, 1915.

[43] *Ibid.*, September 27, 1916.

[44] Cosentino, *op. cit.*, pp. 49-50.

[45] *Macleod Gazette*, April 20, 1900.

[46] *Ibid.*, April 27, 1900.

[47] *Calgary Herald*, May 30, 1901.

[48] *Ibid.*, June 13, 1901.

[49] *Ibid.*, March 9, 1905.

[50] *Calgary Albertan*, November 15 and 21, 1906.

[51] *Calgary Herald*, March 15, 1906.

[52] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 11, 1907.

[53] *Calgary Albertan*, November 18, 1907.

[54] *Ibid.*

[55] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 20, 1907.

[56] *Calgary Albertan*, August 29 and 30, 1911.

[57] *Ibid.*, October 28, 1911.

[58] *Ibid.*, March 5, 1912.

[59] *Ibid.*, May 18, 1912.

[60] *Ibid.*, June 4, 1912.

[61] Calgary News-Telegram, September 5, 1912.

[62] Sturrock, op. cit., p. 87.

[63] Ibid.

[64] Calgary Albertan, September 23, 1913.

[65] Edmonton Bulletin, February 25 and March 11, 1914.

[66] Ibid., May 26, 1914.

# CHAPTER XXI

# SHOOTING

## Rifle Shooting

When the rifle was first introduced into the territory which was later to be Alberta, it was used primarily as a means of acquiring game for sustenance and as a means of defence. By 1900 these needs were, for the most part, being satisfied by more civilized methods. Skill with a rifle was no longer a necessity and instead had become a popular sporting diversion. The rifle was, however, a major weapon used in war and Canada was involved in two wars during this era, the Boer War (1899-1902) and World War I (1914-1918). Consequently, rifle shooting in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918 did not become an independent sport; on the contrary, it was at all times closely associated with the military. This arrangement was reciprocally advantageous. By 1901 the Federal Department of Militia and Defence, under qualifying conditions,[1] was annually supplying quantities of guns and ammunition to civilian rifle associations throughout the Dominion. This significantly enhanced the development of the sport in that individual rifle associations could not otherwise have sustained the costs of operation. In return, civilian rifle associations trained thousands of potential soldiers in marksmanship. Further, members of these associations were bound to the regulations of section 19 of the Militia Act[2] which, among other things, made them liable to serve in the reserve militia.

By the turn of the century rifle associations had been formed in most of the villages and towns of the future Alberta. The Calgary Herald stated that "the 'Boer behind the gun' during the present war in South Africa has supplied a much needed stimulus to the science of rifle shooting here (Calgary), as elsewhere."[3] Another military influence at this time was the North West Mounted Police who were always willing to provide opposition for the rifle associations and who, in addition, frequently sponsored rifle matches.

Indeed the rifle associations did not lack competition for local, provincial, and interprovincial meets were easily arranged and the Canadian Military Rifle League held annual matches. On the local level there were weekly or biweekly spoon and/or button shoots, as well as the year-long trophy competitions which were decided by aggregate scores. Members were classified according to their ability. Spoon and button shoots refer to competitions wherein a silver spoon or gold, silver, and bronze buttons were awarded to the competitor or three competitors who made the highest individual score or scores respectively. Provincially and interprovincially, telegraphic and mail (postal) matches occasionally took place. In these contests rifle teams shot the required number of rounds on their own ranges, and then telegraphed or mailed their results to each other or to the association which conducted the meet. Each team's score was confirmed by a Justice of the Peace. Many clubs preferred home-and-home, inter-club meetings which often necessitated railway travel as did championship meets which were conducted on one common range.

In 1902 the Territorial Rifle Association (T.R.A.) was formed at a meeting in Calgary.[4] The advantages which accrued as a result of this association were that the federal government supplied free ammunition for T.R.A.-sponsored matches and, along with the territorial government, gave substantial money grants for range improvements and travelling expenditures.[5] At the time of the formation of the T.R.A. rifle clubs were reported at Edmonton, Strathcona, Fort Saskatchewan, Wetaskiwin, Lacombe, Ponoka, Leduc, Innisfail, Olds, Cochrane, Priddis, Calgary, Okotoks, Macleod, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat.

The initial T.R.A. meet was held at the Calgary Rifle Association range in August, 1902. Included in the program were one team and five individual matches. C.F. Comer's four-man squad from the Calgary Rifle Association captured the team event while A.R. Carmichael, also from the host club, won the grand aggregate.[6] Besides the annual T.R.A. meet, rifle contests were popular at exhibitions, picnics, and holiday celebrations. During the 1902 Labor Day celebrations at Edmonton, the Edmonton Rifle Association sponsored the following competition.

> Each member was provided with free ammunition and fired 42 shots in all, 14 at 200 yards kneeling, 7 at 300 yards lying, 7 at 500 yards, 7 at 600 yards and 7 at 200 yards, these 7 to be fired in one minute. The possible score was 210.[7]

A bull's eye counted five points, an inner four, a magpie three, and an outer two.

Calgary marksmen were the finest in the northwest in the early 1900s. In both 1901 and 1902 twenty-man teams from the Calgary Rifle Association captured the Colonel Evans Trophy, which was emblematic of the rifle shooting championship of the Northwest Territories and Manitoba.[8] This same club finished third in 1902 and sixth in 1903 in the Canadian Military Rifle League matches,[9] and placed fourth in the 1902 competition for the Rupyan Cup,[10] an international trophy which originated in Australia.

With the passing of the Alberta and Saskatchewan Acts in 1905, the T.R.A. became outmoded and was replaced in Alberta by the Alberta Rifle Association (A.R.A.) which, like its predecessor, affiliated immediately with the Dominion Rifle Association (D.R.A.). From 1906 to 1914 inclusive, the yearly A.R.A. meeting was the premier rifle shooting tournament in Alberta. The ten highest scores in the grand aggregate event of this competition earned positions on the Alberta team which represented the province at the annual D.R.A. matches at Rockcliffe, near Ottawa. Here, Canada's twenty-man team which would compete at the Bisley, England, events the following year was determined.

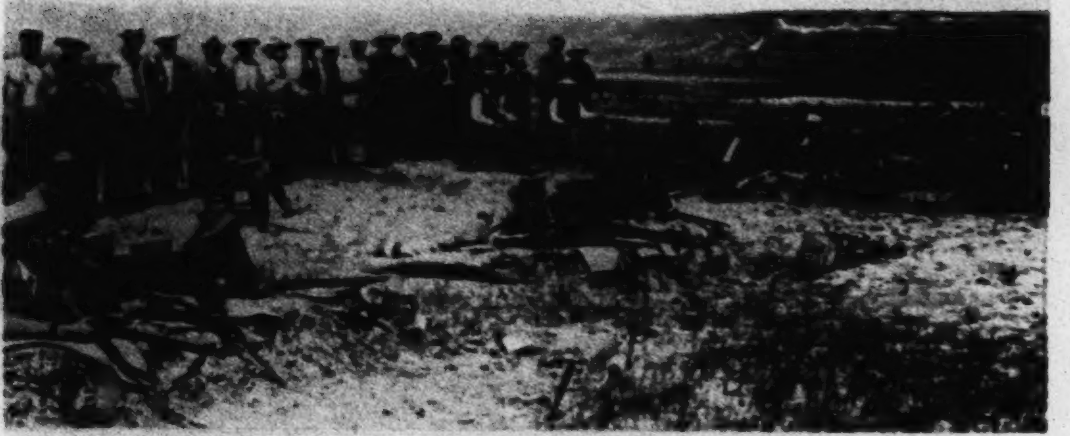

Figure 36. The first annual Territorial Rifle Association meet at Calgary in August, 1902.

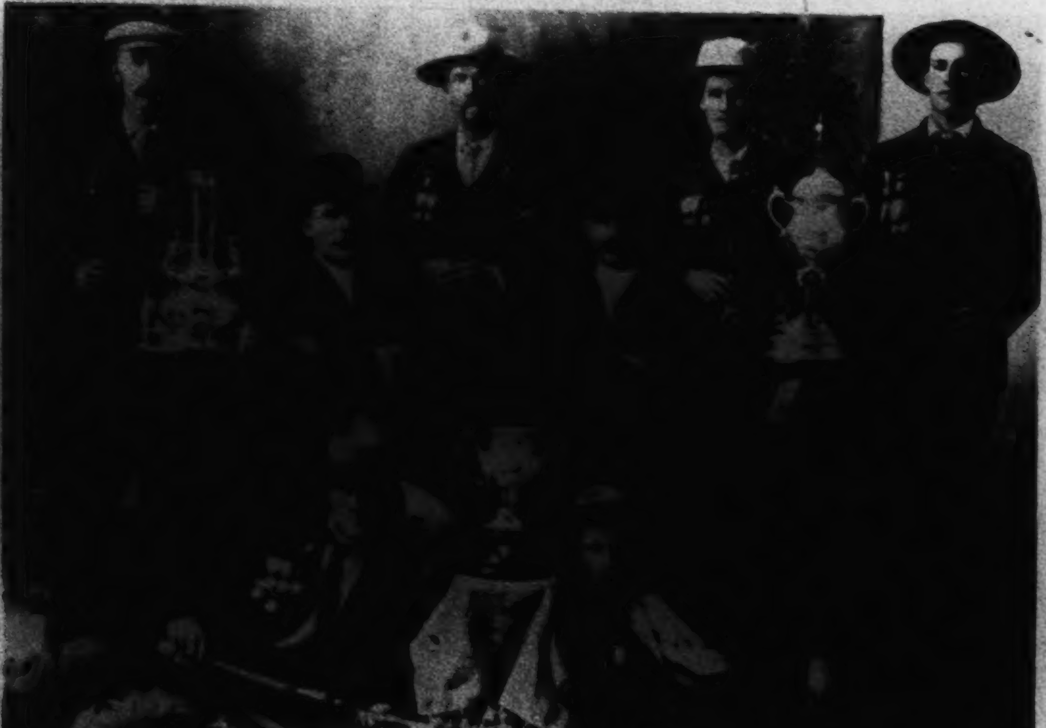

Figure 37. The 1904 Elbow River Rifle Club.

Numerous Alberta marksmen earned a place on the Canadian Bisley team in the pre-War years. In 1906 F. Young of the Elbow River Rifle Club secured a position on the 1907 team, only to be declared ineligible when it was discovered that he was not a member of any military organization.[11] In the ensuing years the following Albertans represented Canada at Bisley: 1908, Cpl. D. McInnis (Strathcona), Sgt. S.S. Brown (Edmonton), and Sgt. A.Martin (Calgary);[12] 1909, McInnis;[13] 1910, McInnis;[14] 1911, Martin, Sgt. A.R. Carmichael (Calgary), and Sgt. C.M. Hodson (Calgary);[15] 1912, Cpl. D.H. Regan (Edmonton);[16] 1913, Brown;[17] and 1914, McInnis and Martin.[18]

Corporal D. McInnis of Strathcona and Edmonton was the outstanding marksman in Alberta between 1900 and 1918. His list of accomplishments is long and impressive. He made four Bisley appearances; was the first Canadian to win the coveted Governor General's Trophy, emblematic of the "best shot" in the Dominion, twice (1907 and 1909);[19] was made a life member of the National Rifle Association of Great Britain for his performance in the Palma Trophy matches of 1907;[20] was twice in the final for the King's Prize, emblematic of the "best shot" in the British Empire;[21] and as a member of the 1908 Canadian Olympic team, McInnis was one of six Canadians who won bronze medals in the International six-man team competition while in the individual competition (1,000 yards), he finished eighth.[22]

The growth of rifle associations and the growth of participation in rifle shooting levelled off in Alberta after the first decade of the twentieth century primarily because of a decline in military influence. Many Albertans were recent immigrants who knew little or nothing of the Boer War while the rest of the population lived contently in an atmosphere of political security. Hence motivation to spur individuals toward shooting competitions was at a low ebb.

Nevertheless, between 1910 and 1914 there were two areas in which interest towards rifle shooting did abound. In May of 1909, S.A. Ramsey of Calgary presented the Calgary Rifle Association with a handsome challenge trophy. The main conditions which governed this trophy follow.

> The teams competing shall consist of six men, all of which must be bonafide members of an Alberta rifle club. The ranges during the competition shall be at two, five and six hundred yards, seven rounds at each range (per man).[23]

The Ramsey Cup quickly became the most prominent trophy open for competition to rifle clubs in the province and, in the five years prior to the War, was hotly contested.

The second area in which rifle shooting enthusiasm prevailed between 1910 and 1914 was among the schoolboys. The military had established cadet training in Alberta as early as 1906 for in July of that year the Calgary Herald reported that "The public school cadets tried their skill at marksmanship on Saturday, and some of them made very good scores."[24] But it was not until the Strathcona Trust Fund was implemented in 1909 that this program began to flourish. In 1911 the A.R.A. instituted a cadet match in conjunction with its annual meet[25] while in Edmonton, the committee allotting Alberta's share of the Lord Strathcona Fund decided to offer prizes to the best marksmen in the 180th Edmonton Public School Cadet Corp rifle shooting competition.[26] Progress was rapid. In 1912 members of the Calgary Public School Regiment No. 134 won nine individual and team trophies in Eastern Canada, including the Henry Pellatt Trophy at Toronto and the Canadian Cadet Championship Cup at Ottawa.[27] Two years later when Canada sent an eleven-member cadet team to Bisley, nine of the members were from Calgary.[28]

Cadet Dalton McWilliams of Calgary was the best marksman among Alberta's schoolboys. His accomplishments are truly creditable. Highlights of his career include the winning of the Secretary's Cup in 1912 for being the "best shot" in Canada under fifteen years of age;[29] the winning of $107 in cash, one trophy, two A.R.A. gold medals, two D.R.A. medals (one silver and one bronze), and the grand aggregate championship at the 1914 A.R.A. meet,[30] while competing against the best senior riflemen in the province; and the winning of the cadet championship of the British Empire at Bisley in 1914.[31] How great a marksman and soldier Dalton McWilliams may have become will never be known. He died on August 21, 1916, in Calgary General Hospital from cerebrospinal meningitis.[32]

With the exception of schoolboys' rifle leagues and infrequent ladies' rifle competitions, the War ended the sporting aspect of rifle shooting. Suddenly rifle shooting became a grim business.

Although not a major sport when ranked according to the number of active participants, rifle shooting enjoyed a successful era between 1900 and the advent of World War I. Rifle meets were common throughout Alberta with the A.R.A. meeting being the major attraction. Cash prizes were awarded at each meet; for example, at the 1913 A.R.A. championships the cash won totalled $2,850.[33] However, according to the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, the awarding of cash prizes at rifle shooting matches did not constitute professionalism. The sport of rifle shooting maintained its relative position in Alberta society due to generous aid, both monetary and in the form of guns and ammunition, from the federal and provincial governments. The governments and the military were, by far, the principal promoters of the sport.

## Trap Shooting

The sport of trap shooting was originally devised early in the nineteenth century by English huntsmen who had been deprived of the chance to shoot at wild birds.[34] Similarly, trap shooting was introduced into the Alberta region in the late 1880s following legislation by the Northwest Territories government which established hunting seasons for various forms of wildlife.[35] By 1900 trap shooting clubs had been formed in this area at Macleod, Pincher Creek, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Calgary, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Edmonton, and Fort Saskatchewan.[36]

Due to a lack of widespread enthusiasm, the sport developed slowly in the early years of the twentieth century. Like participants in most other individual sports, trap shooters were, for the most part, content to compete at the intra-club level. As club memberships increased, weekly, then biweekly, shoots were held, often offering silver spoons, buttons, or medals to the top marksmen in each class. Some clubs adopted the handicap system which called for shooting from distances between sixteen and twenty-five yards depending on a member's ability. Both clay and live pigeons were utilized, and American Trapshooting Association rules governed the competitions. In the Calgary district individual challenge matches were in vogue for several years. In the most famous match, Hunter McMillan of Calgary defeated R.G. Robinson of the Chipman Ranch by two birds to win a purse of $1,000, each man putting up $500.[37]

With the ever-increasing flow of immigrants into the future Alberta, both the number of gun clubs and participation in trap shooting multiplied rapidly. Due to this fact and improved railway transportation, inter-club matches became more frequent. In 1904 a trap shooting tournament was held at Macleod with the Calgary, Lethbridge, and Macleod Gun Clubs all well represented.[38] Meanwhile at Lacombe, the host club outshot teams from the Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, and Red Deer clubs.[39] In addition, the Red Deer and Ponoka Gun Clubs held their first annual tournaments in 1903[40] and 1904[41] respectively, as the Wetaskiwin-Red Deer area of Central Alberta established itself as a hotbed for trapshooters. Later, in 1907, the Calgary Gun Club (C.G.C.) held its first annual tournament and together with other prizes, offered the Calgary Brewing and Malting Company Trophy "which will be representative of the provincial championship, open to all bona fide residents of the province."[42] W.B. McLaren of the C.G.C. won the Alberta championship (unofficial) trophy each year from 1907 through 1910.[43]

The growth of trap shooting closely paralleled the development of new, improved traps. Early in the century most clubs in the Alberta area owned a single "Expert" trap and as a result, intra-club matches were lengthy affairs. A typical evening's shoot, assuming twenty competitors, consisted of ten singles and three pairs per member for a total of 320 targets. Zealous Alberta gun clubs eagerly purchased more efficient traps upon their production. For example, the Lethbridge Gun Club utilized four different traps between 1900 and 1910.

> In 1905, the club purchased an automatic trap and did away with the old expert trap. This was in use up to August of last year when a McCrea trap took its place and today the club have another trap on the way which is the very latest

> and most up-to-date trap made, capable of throwing six thousand targets a day.[44]

Despite the introduction of vastly improved traps, Alberta's best trap shooters were not satisfied with the competition offered in the various Alberta inter-club tournaments. R.G. Robinson of the C.G.C. journeyed to Nelson, B.C., in 1909, and captured the British Columbia championship. Later in the year, both he and Ben McLaren competed in the U.S.A.[45] At the annual meeting of the Calgary Gun Club in March of 1910, it was reported that during the previous season the club had been represented at shoots in Olds, Red Deer, Ponoka, Leduc, Edmonton, Nelson (B.C.), Seattle, Spokane, Butte (Montana), Winnipeg, and Toronto.[46] Further, in 1911 at Winnipeg, R.G. Robinson finished second in the All-Canadian Trapshooting Championship meet.[47]

With the establishment of the Greater Edmonton Gun Club (G.E.G.C.) in 1910[48] and the Northern Club Gun Club (N.C.G.C.) in 1912,[49] both in Edmonton, inter-city rivalry between Calgary and Edmonton provided a much-needed stimulus to the sport of trap shooting. Inter-club tournaments assumed new importance as prestigious trophies, valuable prizes, plus increasing cash prizes were added to the award system. The events contested at these tournaments varied only slightly. A typical tournament was the third annual N.C.G.C. meet which was held in August, 1914. Included in the program were eleven events: a ten-man team shoot for the Kirkland Trophy, emblematic of the championship of

Alberta (unofficial), and $150 in prizes; a two-man team event; an individual doubles event; seven 20-bird sweepstakes; and a 100-bird professional event. Prizes were also awarded for the long run and the high average.[50] Often five-man team, handicap, and consolation sweepstake events were part of the tournament schedules.

Cash prizes became very common. But according to the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association and its superior, the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada, competition for cash prizes in trap shooting, as in rifle shooting and bowling, did not constitute professionalism. After about 1911, there was a professional event contested at most of the larger trap shooting tournaments in Alberta. Although open to all, this event was so named because it accommodated trap shooting professionals who were employed by various firearm and ammunition companies.

The most noted professional in the province was F.H. Morris. Morris was a member of the N.C.G.C., but as a representative of the Dominion Cartridge Company Limited of Montreal, he travelled extensively throughout Canada, generally winning events and championships wherever he went. A five-time Canadian Bisley member, Morris did not take up trap shooting until 1913. In a meteoric rise to the top, Morris finished first among Canadian professional trap shooters in 1916 according to the Interstate Association records with a .9534 average.[51] In 1917 the Edmonton Bulletin reported that "Last year Mr. Morris was 'high professional' for the whole of the Dominion, and has practically cinched the honor for 1917 by a big margin of birds."[52]

In the fall of 1914 the Alberta Provincial Trapshooters Association (A.P.T.A.) was formed, with the chief objective being the organization of one large official championship meet each year. This meet was successfully held at Red Deer in 1915,[53] and at Edmonton in 1916 and 1917.[54] The War, by 1918, had diminished the ranks of trap shooters to such an extent that the A.P.T.A. tournament was cancelled that year.

Outstanding trapshooters in Alberta during this era included G.M. Cowderoy and W.A. Mores of Edmonton, and R.G. Robinson, W.B. McLaren, and A. Bishop of Calgary. Of these five, Ben McLaren is best remembered. This is primarily due to his performance at the Dominion Trap Shooting Association amateur championships at Ottawa in 1915, where he won the Canadian title by breaking fifty straight birds.[55]

In conclusion, it seems only natural that trap shooting maintained its relative popularity throughout this era. Alberta was blessed with an abundance of wild game birds – ducks, geese, prairie chicken, partridge, grouse, and pheasant. Trap shooters were most often enthusiastic wildfowl hunters who were attempting to improve their marksmanship in anticipation of the open season.

## Revolver Shooting

Revolver shooting did not gain public favor in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918. Competition was restricted to the various police forces and to the militia. The following is a typical newspaper reference to this sport.

> The fourth monthly revolver practice of the police force shows a number of exceptionally good scores, Constable C. Shaw leading with 30 points, a 'possible'. This is the first time that the trick has been turned, and Constable Shaw holds the record, which cannot be broken for the same number of shots.56

## Footnotes

[1] Edmonton Bulletin, May 6, 1901.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Calgary Herald, May 3, 1900.

[4] Ibid., April 3, 1902.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Ibid., August 21, 1902.

[7] Edmonton Bulletin, September 5, 1902.

[8] Calgary Herald, January 29, 1903.

[9] Ibid., March 19, 1903 and March 17, 1904.

[10] Ibid., April 23, 1903.

[11] Calgary Albertan, September 6, 1906.

[12] Ibid., July 21, 1908.

[13] Ibid., May 4, 1909.

[14] Ibid., August 28, 1909 and Edmonton Bulletin, July 2, 1910.

[15] Calgary Albertan, September 5, 1910 and Edmonton Bulletin, August 29, 1910, June 1, 1911.

[16] Edmonton Bulletin, May 10, 1912.

[17] Ibid., July 21, 1913.

[18] Ibid., May 6, 1914.

[19] Ibid., August 28, 1909.

[20] *Ibid.*, September 11, 1907.

[21] *Ibid.*, September 27, 1910.

[22] Johan Louw, "Canada's Participation at the Olympic Games," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1971, p. 341.

[23] *Calgary Albertan*, May 17, 1909.

[24] *Calgary Herald*, July 19, 1906.

[25] *Calgary Albertan*, July 20, 1911.

[26] *Edmonton Bulletin*, December 13, 1911. Also, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, April 2, 1917 and April 27, 1918.

[27] *Calgary News-Telegram*, September 7, 1912.

[28] *Calgary Albertan*, April 21 and 28, 1914.

[29] *Calgary News-Telegram*, September 7, 1912.

[30] *Ibid.*, July 18, 1914.

[31] *Calgary Albertan*, August 21, 1916.

[32] *Ibid.*

[33] *Calgary News-Telegram*, June 13, 1913.

[34] Frank G. Menke, *The Encyclopedia of Sports*, Third Revised Edition, New York: A.S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1963, p. 783.

[35] John Edmund Reid, "Sports and Games in Alberta Before 1900," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, p. 43.

[36] *Ibid.*, pp. 43-45.

[37] *Calgary Herald*, December 29, 1904. Also, see *Calgary Herald*, February 23, 1905.

[38] Macleod Gazette, July 1 and 8, 1904.

[39] Alberta Advocate (Red Deer), August 4, 1904.

[40] Edmonton Bulletin, June 19, 1914.

[41] Calgary Albertan, September 11, 1908.

[42] Ibid., July 23 and August 9, 1907.

[43] Ibid., July 7, 1910.

[44] Lethbridge Herald, May 3, 1910.

[45] Calgary Albertan, August 14, 1909.

[46] Ibid., March 4, 1910.

[47] Ibid., July 19, 1911.

[48] Edmonton Bulletin, June 18, 1914.

[49] Ibid., August 10, 1912.

[50] Ibid., August 11, 1914.

[51] Ibid., July 8, 1916 and January 22, 1917.

[52] Ibid., September 8, 1917.

[53] Calgary News-Telegram, July 2 and 3, 1915.

[54] Edmonton Bulletin, August 16, 1916 and July 12, 1917.

[55] Calgary Albertan, June 12, 1915.

[56] Edmonton Bulletin, October 1, 1915. Also see Edmonton Bulletin, January 4, 1916 and July 23, 1917.

# CHAPTER XXII

## TRACK AND FIELD

During the first decade of the twentieth century, the terms "athletics" and "athletic events" were commonly used in the Alberta area to denote track and/or field competitions. These terms gradually became antiquated during the second decade and were replaced by the modern "track and field".

At the turn of the century, athletics were, from both participant and spectator points of view, a very popular form of entertainment. Athletic events were among the leading features at all sports' days and picnics. Sports' days were in vogue to celebrate national, provincial, and local holidays while picnics were frequently held by church, ethnic, school, police, military, and farmer groups and organizations.

The athletic programs at this time varied considerably.[1] Generally, however, except for the athletics schedule at school picnics, they consisted of running races for girls, women, boys, and men, plus novelty, jumping, and field events for the men. To illustrate, the Dominion Day sports at Fort Chipewyan in 1900 consisted of the following events: 100 yard foot race; running high jump; high jump with pole; sack race; smoking race; three-legged race;

boys' race (seventeen years and under); boys' race (twelve years and under); half mile race; shoulder stone (presumably a weight-lifting competition); throwing stone over head; hop, step, and jump; ladies' race; girls' race; long jump; and fat man's race.[2] The shoulder stone and throwing stone over head events indicate that there were no hammers, cabers, shots, or disci in the Fort Chipewyan region at the beginning of the present century.

Children considered the combined school picnic and athletic meet to be the highlight of the school year. Once again the program of events contested differed from one meet to the next. At Strathcona in 1906, the annual high school and public school picnic and athletics included thirty-seven competitions.

> Senior boys: running high jump; running hop, step, and jump; putting shot; 100 yards dash; 220 yards dash; standing broad jump; running broad jump; pole vault. Junior boys: 220 yards dash; running hop, step, and jump; running high jump; 100 yards dash; pole vault; standing broad jump; putting shot. Open boys: mile relay race; half-mile relay race; ball throw; 120 yards hurdle race; sack race; three-legged race. Boys under 12 years: sack race; three-legged race; boot and stocking race; 100 yards dash; 75 yards dash. Boys under 8 years: 50 yards dash. Girls 15 years or over: 75 yards dash. Girls under 15 years: 75 yards dash. Girls over 12 years: 50 yards dash. Girls over 8 years and under 12 years: 50 yards dash. Girls under 8 years: 50 yards dash. Open girls: needle race; driving nails; potato race; milk race; egg race.[3]

Another form of athletics in the early 1900s was the challenge foot race. Local sprint champions found it advantageous to use their speed for material gain.

In 1905 the Calgary Herald reported that:

> Articles were signed this morning, and a deposit made on a footrace for $500 a side between Graydon of Nanton, and Smith of Shoal Lake.
>
> The articles called for the remainder of the deposit to be made today, and the race to be run here on July 18, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.[4]

Like most challenge foot races in the future Alberta, the above race covered 100 yards. It was won by Smith in 10.2 seconds.[5] Because such match races attracted huge crowds of betters, they were often viewed with suspicion.[6]

Between 1900 and 1908 the two largest and most prestigious athletic meets were staged each year on Victoria Day at Calgary and Fort Saskatchewan. Both of these competitions were held in conjunction with sports' days under the auspices of the Calgary Fire Brigade[7] and the Fort Saskatchewan Amateur Athletic Association[8] respectively. At these track and field meets, and at others during this period, there were both cash and trophy prizes.

In 1908 the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) was created to govern all amateur sport in the province.[9] During that same year the A.A.A.A. sanctioned the first provincial amateur athletic meet. This competition was held at Edmonton under the joint auspices of the Y.M.C.A. and the Young Liberal Club Athletic Association. Among the initial provincial records set were a 4:55.6 minute mile, a five foot three inch high jump, and a nine foot pole vault.[10] By reason of an auspicious debut, the provincial amateur athletic meet became not only an annual affair, but the premier gathering of Alberta's track and field athletes. It was held at Calgary in 1909,[11] at Lethbridge in 1910,[12] at Edmonton in 1911, 1913, and 1915,[13] at Red Deer in 1912,[14] and at Medicine Hat in 1914.[15] Because of the War, the provincial championships were postponed in 1916, 1917, and 1918.

The A.A.A.A., in affiliation with the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union in 1908 and 1909 and with the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada from 1909 to 1918, prohibited the awarding of cash prizes to amateur track and field athletes. Hence, trophies, shields, and medals replaced the cash accolades. At the Fort Saskatchewan Victoria Day sports in 1909, for instance, a $100 silver cup was offered to the winner of the twenty mile marathon, while gold medals to the value of $35 and $15 were second and third prizes in this event.[16]

Following the victory of Hamilton's William Sherring in the Olympic marathon at Athens, Greece, in 1906, a long distance running fad swept through Canada. In Alberta that year, J.J. Young, owner of the Calgary Herald, inaugurated the now famous Herald Christmas Day Road Race. The initial race attracted thousands of spectators who lined the six mile course;[17] as a result, this competition became an annual attraction. It was held on Christmas Day as a publicity stunt to prove to the world that Calgary was in the chinook belt.[18] Winners of the Herald Road Race during this era were Art Burn of Calgary in 1906 and 1907; Fred Mecklenberg of Calgary in 1908 and 1909; Alex Decoteau of Edmonton in 1910, 1914, and 1915; Alex Hepburn of Calgary in 1911; R.H. Palmer of Calgary in 1912 and 1913; and Jack Ross of Olds in 1916, 1917, and 1918.[19]

For two years, 1907 and 1908, perhaps the best distance runner in Western Canada was Arthur Burn of Calgary. In 1907 Burn won an international seven mile race at Seattle,[20] the five mile Manitoba championship at Winnipeg,[21] the quarter mile, half mile, and five mile competitions at the first annual sports' day of the Calgary Young Men's Club,[22] and the Calgary Herald Christmas Day Road Race.[23] In addition, he defeated W.R. Chandler of Vancouver, the best long distance runner on the Pacific Coast, twice, at ten and fifteen miles in New Westminster[24] and Vancouver[25] respectively. The following year Burn was one of several marathoners who represented Canada at the London Olympics. Bothered by a badly sprained ankle which prevented him from competing in the Canadian Olympic Trials,[26] Burn finished in twenty-fourth place.[27]

Another Olympian from Alberta in 1908 was J.F. Fitzgerald of Edmonton. At London, Fitzgerald was eliminated in the first-round heats of the 1,500 meter run and the 3,200 meter steeplechase. But in his specialty, the five mile run, Fitzgerald reached the finals and placed a creditable seventh.[28]

Neither Burn nor Fitzgerald was destined to again represent Alberta or Canada at the amateur level. In 1909 Burn cancelled his membership card with the A.A.A.A. and moved to Seattle where he joined the Seattle Athletic Club.[29] Three years later he died in Vancouver of tuberculosis.[30] Fitzgerald, on the other hand, turned professional in June of 1909.[31] In subsequent years he raced against some of the world's outstanding middle and long distance runners including Alfred Shrubb of Great Britain, Fred Meadows, and two great Canadian Indian runners, Paul Acoose from Grenfell, Saskatchewan, and John D. Marsh from St. Norbert, Manitoba.

The same year that Burn's and Fitzgerald's names were scratched off the A.A.A.A. membership roll another promising Alberta distance runner burst into the spotlight by winning the five mile championship of Saskatchewan, and both the one and five mile championships of Alberta.[32] He was Alex Decoteau, a young Edmontonian and a member of that city's Irish Canadian Amateur Athletic Association. In the ensuing years Decoteau was practically unbeatable in his native province in races from one to five miles in length. At the 1910 and 1911 provincial amateur athletic meets he captured seven individual running titles.[33] Therefore it did not surprise Albertans a year later when Decoteau won the 5,000 meter event at the Olympic Trials in Montreal. In covering the distance in 15:27.4 minutes, he clipped eight seconds off the Canadian record.[34] Racing against the world's best at the 1912 Stockholm Olympiad, Decoteau finished eighth in the 5,000 meter final.[35] Five years later this brilliant Alberta athlete lost his life in the War.[36]

There were many other outstanding track and field athletes who resided in Alberta during this era. Among them were Ross S. Sheppard and Roy Haliburton of the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. club and Dr. Joseph Bricker of Coronation. Sheppard, a school teacher at Strathcona Collegiate Institute in Edmonton, began his assault on the record books at the Fort Saskatchewan Sports' Day in 1913 when he set a Canadian record in the standing high jump with a leap of four feet, nine inches.[37] Two months later he won the individual championship at the provincial amateur athletic meet in Edmonton when he placed first in four events and third in two others.[38] Still later in 1913, Sheppard broke his own Amateur Athletic Union of Canada record in the standing high jump when he cleared the bar at an even five feet.[39] The former University of Toronto track star's achievements continued in 1914 and 1915. At the Alberta amateur championships in Medicine Hat in 1914, he once again raised the Dominion record in the standing high jump, this time to five feet, three-eighths inch.[40] And in 1915, for the second time in three years, Sheppard won the individual title at the provincial meet when he placed first in the 100 and 220 yard dashes, the standing high jump, the running broad jump, and the running hop, step, and jump. He also finished third in two events for a total of twenty-seven points, calculated on a 5-3-1 basis.[41]

Both Haliburton and Dr. Bricker excelled in the running long jump and the running hop, step, and jump. Haliburton won both these events at the 1913 Canadian Amateur Track and Field Championships which were held in Vancouver.[42] Two years later at the national championships in Winnipeg, he repeated his victory in the running long jump.[43] At the Alberta amateur athletic meet in 1914, Haliburton demonstrated his all-round ability by capturing the individual title. In doing so he placed first in the 100 and 220 yard dashes, and the running long jump; and second in the running hop, step, and jump, and the running high jump.[44]

It does not appear as if Bricker immigrated to Alberta until late 1914 or early 1915 for his first track and field competition as an Albertan was at the 1915 Canadian amateur championships. Here he won the pole vault, finished second in both the running hop, step, and jump and the 120 yard high hurdles, and placed third in the running long jump.[45] Later that same year Bricker shattered the Canadian pole vault record when he swung over the bar at eleven feet, three inches during the Calgary Labor Day Sports' celebrations.[46] It is highly probable that this Dr. Joseph Bricker is the same man that Louw refers to as Dr. Calvin Bricker.[47] Dr. Calvin Bricker, a native of Listowel, Ontario, won a bronze medal in the running long jump and placed fourth in the final of the hop, step, and jump at the 1908 Olympic Games, and won a silver medal in the running long jump at Stockholm in 1912.[48]

The Y.M.C.A.s must be given considerable credit for the promotion of track and field. They initiated athletic clubs for both men and boys, and were frequent sponsors of athletic meets and competitions. In 1908 at Edmonton[49] and in 1909 at Calgary,[50] Harrier Clubs were formed to provide an opportunity for both junior and senior-level athletes in these cities to compete in their favorite running events. More common, however, were the intra-Y.M.C.A. handicap track and field meets which were composed of several events per week throughout the outdoor season. These meets enabled the novices and the poorer athletes to compete on an equal basis with the established stars, who in turn were supplied with excellent competition and were consequently called upon to extend themselves in order to win.

In addition, the Y.M.C.A.s provided indoor facilities for track and field training and competition during the off-season. Both the Calgary and the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. buildings contained a running track which was located on the level above the gymnasium.[51] In regard to competitions, a typical indoor meet took place at the Calgary Y.M.C.A. in April, 1911, when five teams, each made up of six men, contested seven events: the standing broad jump, 100 yard dash, running high jump, potato race, shot put, 440 yard run, and running hop, step, and jump.[52] That same spring the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. entered the national indoor Y.M.C.A. hexathlon contest. This competition was made up of the following events: standing broad jump, running high jump, fence vault, sixty yard potato race, eight pound shot put (junior), twelve pound shot put (senior), 160 yard potato race (junior), and 220 yard potato race (senior).[53] The aggregate point total was determined by adding the scores of the three top performances in each event.[54] Edmonton Y.M.C.A. athletes proved that they were among the best in the country by winning the senior championship and finishing second to Orillia, Ontario, in their quest for the junior title.[55] The following year, 1912, Russell Engler won the all-round junior title[56] as he paced the Edmonton "Y" to the junior championship while the senior team captured third place.[57] Considering the nation-wide scope of this hexathlon, these showings were very estimable.

The schools also played a major role in the development of track and field. In most cases the annual athletic meet was as old as the school itself. Children naturally gravitated toward running, jumping, and throwing events since most competitions required only two participants, a minimum amount of equipment, and no formal instruction. As the school athletic meet evolved, rival schools began to hold these daylong festivities in conjunction. This added to the excitement and increased the competitive element. In 1908 at Edmonton, the first annual athletic meet of the public and high schools was held with over

2,000 children in attendance.[58] A year later at Calgary, the first annual track and field days of the Calgary Public Schools[59] and Calgary Collegiate Institute[60] were staged. The Calgary Public Schools gathering attracted 3,000 people.[61] To say that these athletic meets were a success would be putting it mildly. At the University of Alberta, the first annual field day took place in 1912 and consisted of the 100 yard dash; running broad jump; one mile run; shot put; 220 yard dash; hop, step, and jump; 440 yard run; pole vault; inter-year relay race; high jump; 880 yard run; hurdle race; and three mile run (all for men). A. Dietz won the championship medal by gaining twenty-four points.[62] Interestingly, the oldest annual school field day in either Calgary or Edmonton was held at Calgary's Western Canada College. It originated in 1904.[63]

On May 25, 1914, Olds High School staged the inaugural provincial high school athletic meet.[64] By earning forty-two points out of a possible sixty-three, Calgary Collegiate Institute won the Alberta championship (unofficial) trophy which was donated by the citizens of Olds. Competition among the girls was restricted to a basketball tournament.[65]

During this era the most common method of grouping school children at an athletic meet was according to age. However, in the second decade, the public schools at Calgary in 1910[66] and at Edmonton in 1916[67] successfully adopted the weight system. In support of this system the Calgary

Albertan stated:

> The boys are divided into classes, according to weight, such as 85 lbs. and under, 100 lbs. and under, and so forth. Boys must compete in their own class. They cannot compete in a class lower or higher. This eliminates the danger of a boy overestimating his endurance or strength and doing himself an injury.
>
> The events for the different classes are also chosen with care and are suited to boys of each class. This also does away with the possibility of any injurious after effects.[68]

The practical advantage of the weight classification over the age arrangement was that it gave slow-maturing boys a chance to compete successfully.

Participation by schoolgirls in track and field did not keep pace with the overall expansion of the sport. This was primarily due to apathy on the part of both schoolgirls and school athletic administrators. It was not until 1915 that a Calgary Public Schools' athletic meet included girls' races on its program. But once they were incorporated, they "proved to be the biggest attractions of the afternoon, the girls from the various schools fairly outdoing the boys in the keenness of the competition."[69] Elsewhere, at the University of Alberta during the 1917-1918 school term, innovations in the women's athletic program included "the holding of a special Field Day and the entering of four events in connection with the Men's Track and Field Meet."[70]

Also contributing to the growth of track and field during this era were the various amateur athletic associations. Three strong track and field clubs in Edmonton were the Irish Canadian, Caledonian, and Police Amateur Athletic Associations. These associations provided a congenial atmosphere, competition, facilities, and coaching for their members.

By 1916, as a result of the War, senior track and field in Alberta had become confined to small, local sports' days for adult civilians, and to inter-battalion athletic meets and competitions for the military personnel. Only in the educational institutions did the sport flourish. In 1918 Alberta boasted three of the world's fastest sack racers in J.P. Taylor of Calgary, and Tom and Matt Lowe of Youngstown. Taylor in the one-ninth mile race and Tom Lowe in the 100 yard event held unofficial world records of 32 and 14.4 seconds respectively.[71] The sacks used in this competition were five feet high and three feet wide, and were tied around the neck at the top.[72]

Footnotes

[1] Edmonton Bulletin, May 14, 1900, June 6, 1900, July 13, 1900, May 13, 1901, July 28, 1902, August 20, 1903, June 1, 1905; Macleod Gazette, July 6, 1905; and Calgary Herald, May 31, 1900, August 1, 1901, August 14 and 28, 1902.

[2] Edmonton Bulletin, August 13, 1900.

[3] Ibid., October 10, 1906.

[4] Calgary Herald, July 13, 1905.

[5] Ibid., July 27, 1905.

[6] Eye Opener (High River), August 8, 1903.

[7] Calgary Herald, May 31, 1900.

[8] Edmonton Bulletin, March 29, 1912.

[9] Ibid., May 18, 1908.

[10] Ibid., August 18 and 25, 1908.

[11] Calgary Albertan, September 4 and 7, 1909.

[12] Edmonton Bulletin, July 2, 1910.

[13] Ibid., July 24, 1911, July 1 and 2, 1913, and July 2, 1915.

[14] Ibid., July 18, 1912.

[15] Ibid., July 2 and 4, 1914.

[16] Ibid., May 25, 1909.

[17] "Canada's Only Christmas Road Race. 25th Annual Athletic Event Conducted by Calgary Herald," Calgary Herald, December 20, 1930, Provenance: Calgary - Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[18] "Road Race in 'Banana Belt'," Calgary Herald, September 6, 1958, Provenance: Calgary – Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[19] "Canada's Only Christmas Road Race. 25th Annual Athletic Event Conducted by Calgary Herald," *loc. cit.*

[20] Calgary Albertan, March 30, 1907.

[21] *Ibid.*, July 19, 1907.

[22] *Ibid.*, August 26, 1907.

[23] *Ibid.*, December 26, 1907.

[24] *Ibid.*, October 3, 1907.

[25] *Ibid.*, October 14, 1907.

[26] Edmonton Bulletin, June 4, 10, and 29, 1908.

[27] Johan Louw, "Canada's Participation at the Olympic Games," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1971, p. 337.

[28] *Ibid.*

[29] Calgary Albertan, April 6, 1909.

[30] *Ibid.*, January 2, 1912.

[31] Edmonton Bulletin, June 18, 1909.

[32] *Ibid.*, January 8, 1910.

[33] *Ibid.*, July 2, 1910 and July 24, 1911.

[34] *Ibid.*, June 11, 1912.

[35] Louw, *op. cit.*, p. 343.

[36] Edmonton Bulletin, November 26, 1917.

[37] Ibid., May 26, 1913.

[38] Ibid., July 1, 1913.

[39] Ibid., August 4, 1913 and Calgary Albertan, January 24, 1914.

[40] Edmonton Bulletin, July 2 and 4, 1914.

[41] Ibid., July 2, 1915.

[42] Ibid., September 8, 1913.

[43] Ibid., July 5, 1915.

[44] Ibid., July 2 and 4, 1914.

[45] Ibid., July 3 and 5, 1915.

[46] Calgary Albertan, September 7, 1915.

[47] Louw, op. cit., pp. 66 and 343.

[48] Ibid.

[49] Edmonton Bulletin, April 16, 1908.

[50] Calgary Albertan, April 22, 1909.

[51] Ibid., January 1, 1909 and Edmonton Bulletin, February 6, 1908. Also, see Calgary Albertan, June 14, 1909.

[52] Calgary Albertan, April 21, 1911. Also, see Calgary Albertan, April 30, 1912.

[53] Edmonton Bulletin, April 9, 1913.

[54] Ibid., November 8, 1910 and March 27, 1911.

[55] Ibid., May 11, 1911.

[56] Ibid., May 25, 1912.

[57] Ibid., May 22, 1912.

[58] Ibid., October 10, 1908.

[59] Calgary Albertan, October 9, 1909.

[60] Ibid., October 15, 1910.

[61] Ibid., October 9, 1909.

[62] The Gateway, Vol. III, No. 2 (November 1912), p. 28, Edmonton: The Students' Union, University of Alberta, 1912.

[63] Calgary Albertan, May 27, 1912 and June 4, 1918.

[64] Ibid., May 26, 1914.

[65] Ibid.

[66] Ibid., May 22, 1912.

[67] Edmonton Bulletin, September 26, 1916.

[68] Calgary Albertan, May 22, 1912.

[69] Ibid., October 7, 1915.

[70] The Gateway, Graduation Number (April 1918), p. 30, Edmonton: The Students' Union, University of Alberta, 1918.

[71] Calgary Canadian, August 5, 1918 and Calgary Albertan, October 15, 1918.

[72] Calgary Albertan, June 24, 1918.

# CHAPTER XXIII

# MAJOR FACTORS AFFECTING SPORTS IN ALBERTA, 1900-1918

## Amateurism and Professionalism[1]

Although amateurism was a dominant feature of sports in the Alberta area at the turn of the century, athletics (track and field), bicycling, boxing, horse and harness-horse racing, and ice skating had professional athletes within their ranks. Athletic programs, which were held concurrently with most sports' days and picnics, frequently offered cash prizes in a wide variety of running, jumping, and throwing events. Challenge races were the mode of attainment by which those who excelled at sprinting, bicycle racing, and ice skating could supplement their incomes. Meanwhile boxers, most of whom were not residents of the future Alberta, plied their trade for gate receipts, or a percentage of them, and side bets. Horse and harness-horse racing were highly commercialized and few debates surround these sports with respect to professionalism. For instance, in 1900 the Macleod Turf Association gave $850 in prize money at their spring race meet while a year later the Macleod Agricultural Society offered purses amounting to $2,000 for their exhibition program of horse and harness-horse races.[2]

Between 1900 and the formation of the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) in May of 1908, the degree of professionalism increased with corresponding rapidity to the settlement of the Alberta region. Evidence of professionalism, that is, participation for monetary gain, was found in the literature pertaining to many sports. Cash prizes became the most common method of rewarding winning athletes in athletics, bicycling, billiards, bowling, equestrian steeplechase and jumping, gymkhana, horse and harness-horse racing, ice skating, rifle shooting, rodeo, and trap shooting. Professional boxers and wrestlers continued to depend, in part, on gate receipts and side bets from their matches for their livelihood. Golf professionals were peculiar in that they generally were not competitive athletes, but instead, were club pros who taught the activity to those who wanted to learn the game and were willing to pay the price of instruction. In this case amateur sport cultivated professional athletes for its own betterment. At the same time, intense local rivalries and large-scale betting were the forces which produced professionalism in baseball, lacrosse, and ice hockey. In many centers supporters of these sports insisted that the necessary personnel be recruited, at almost any cost, so that they could compete on an equal basis with neighboring villages, towns, and cities. Often communities used baseball, lacrosse, and hockey as a means through which they could exert their superiority over a nearby locale. This was also a period when sizable cash baseball tournaments were the rage.

From an overall viewpoint, the formation of the A.A.A.A. in 1908 stymied the growth of professionalism in Alberta. This association was organized under the rules and constitution of and in affiliation with the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union (C.A.A.U.) to govern, promote, and protect all amateur sport in the province.[3] As such the A.A.A.A. adopted the C.A.A.U.'s definition of an amateur.

> An amateur is a person who has not competed in any competition for a staked bet, monies, private or public, gate receipts, or competed with or against a professional for a prize; who has never taught or assisted in the pursuit of any athletic exercise or sport as a means of livelihood; who has never directly or indirectly received any bonus or payment in lieu of loss of time while playing as a member of any club, or any money consideration whatever for any services as an athlete except his actual travelling expenses and hotel expenses; who has never entered into any competition under a name other than his own, or who has never been guilty of selling or pledging his prizes.[4]

In September, 1909, the A.A.A.A. became a provincial branch of the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada (A.A.U. of C.) following the merger of the Amateur Athletic Federation of Canada (A.A.F. of C.) and the C.A.A.U.[5]

Because a large percentage of the sports engaged in by Albertans between 1908 and 1918 were not organized on a province-wide scale, it was extremely difficult for the A.A.A.A. to exert any control over them. As a result, elements of professionalism continued to persist in such sports as baseball, billiards, boxing, equestrian steeplechase and jumping, golf, gymkhana, horse and harness-horse racing, ice skating, rodeo, and wrestling while, between

1911 and 1918, cash prizes came into vogue at ski jumping tournaments. Meanwhile the accomplishments of the Alberta amateur branch in relationship to sports on the Alberta scene included a complete regulatory and governing influence over athletics; the apparent control of swimming starting in 1909;[6] a positive liaison with the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association, the Alberta Association Football League following its formation in 1909, the Alberta Amateur Lacrosse Association beginning in 1911, and the Alberta Rugby Football Union after its creation in 1911; the organization and direction of the 1909, 1910, and 1911 Alberta Provincial Bowling Tournaments; and the organization and direction of provincial amateur championships in baseball, boxing, and wrestling[7] in 1915 and in basketball in 1916. But the influence of the A.A.A.A. was more profound than it would appear on the surface. This was primarily due to the fact that competitions and leagues in those sports that were not affiliated with the A.A.A.A. were often forced to adopt amateur standing, since many of the athletes who participated in these "non-affiliated" sports were registered A.A.A.A. members in other sports.

Baseball, boxing, and horse and harness-horse racing were the sports which flourished most prominently at the professional level following the formation of the A.A.A.A. Another trio of sports — bowling, trap shooting, and rifle shooting — were classified as strictly amateur activities by the C.A.A.U. in 1909 in spite of the fact that they all rigidly adhered to the cash prize system.[8] This categorization of bowling, trap shooting, and rifle shooting remained in effect throughout the remainder of this era.

During the War certain measures were taken by the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association which established precedents throughout the Dominion. In November, 1915, the Alberta branch ruled that in competition among enlisted men amateur athletes could, provided they received no remuneration, compete with or against professionals without jeopardizing their amateur standing.[9] This decision was due, in part, to two circumstances. First, a large majority of the province's athletes who were registered with the A.A.A.A. had enlisted, and second, during the summer of 1915 with over 7,000 men stationed at Sarcee Camp near Calgary, nothing was done to organize and encourage the soldiers in sport competitions. Moreover, the A.A.A.A. felt that no matter what the standing of an athlete was before the War, the fact that he donned khaki and was going to fight for and risk his life for the men who stayed at home was sufficient reason to allow professionals and amateurs to mix indiscriminately in military sports until the end of the War.[10]

Four months later, in an attempt to assist the War effort and to further stimulate sport competitions among the soldiers, the A.A.A.A. banned all senior civilian sports in Alberta where a gate or a collection was to be taken, effective April 1, 1916.[11] The A.A.A.A. maintained that civilians of military age should not ask the public to support their sport during the War and that, in most cases, athletes of military age should be in khaki.[12] Immediately following this interdiction the Alberta amateur union was strongly criticized by other provincial amateur athletic associations who, in the main, supported the ideology of Wellington's famous eulogy that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton." In defence of the A.A.A.A.'s stand the Calgary Albertan stated that

> ... any person who has time enough to train for skilled athletic contests, can devote that time to some more substantial form of service at this critical time in the history of the nation. Nothing that the athletics' moguls have said or done can be construed to discourage sane recreation. The distinction between sane recreation and athletic contests requiring long and arduous practice are very obvious.[13]

In November, 1916, the A.A.A.A. banned all intermediate civilian sports in Alberta where a gate or a collection was to be taken for the same reasons that they had prohibited participation in all senior civilian sports.[14] A year later, however, when the Military Service Act definitely settled the liability for military service of each citizen and placed the conscription age at twenty years, the Alberta branch lifted this ban.[15] It is interesting to note that no other provincial amateur athletic association followed Alberta's lead of restricting organized intermediate and senior sports participation to those who wore khaki in an endeavor to augment the War effort.

Newspaper gleanings from 1916, 1917, and 1918 testify that the A.A.A.A.'s restrictions on intermediate and senior civilian sports were not strictly adhered to. This was chiefly due to the War itself, which took its toll on those individuals who championed the cause of the A.A.A.A.; for example, in October, 1915, Rev. Robert Pearson, president of the A.A.A.A. and an ardent worker for the improvement of amateur sport in the province, enlisted with the 82nd Battalion.[16] By 1918 Alberta's amateur sport governing body was in a state of lethargy, with the result that the ban on all senior civilian sports became meaningless. After the War the A.A.U. of C. ruled against proposals to reinstate all returning soldiers to amateur ranks. This action so incensed a rejuvenated Alberta branch that it decided to "whitewash all athletes in the province dating from May 17, 1919, irrespective of what action the A.A.U. of C. may take."[17] From the foregoing material it is apparent that, between 1915 and 1918, leaders of amateur sport in Alberta placed the importance of World War I ahead of all other matters.

## Churches

By 1900 many Canadian churches acknowledged that if they were to retain a vital place in the life of the nation a deepening sense of responsibility to the ever-changing social, political, and economic environment would have to be substituted for nineteenth century puritanism.

In the ensuing years churches discovered that one way in which their spiritual work could be better advanced, in the rapidly-evolving industrial age, was by fostering legitimate sports, both financially and morally. Because of this liberalizing philosophy, the first two decades of the twentieth century saw the degree of church involvement in sports increase steadily.

Association football, baseball, and hockey were perhaps the most widely-accepted church sports during this era. Many congregations, including those in rural areas, played intramural association football, baseball, and hockey matches on specially laid out athletic grounds adjacent to their buildings of worship. In the larger centers these friendly games evolved into inter-church confrontations early in the 1900s. Later with the arrival of league play, some churches began to enter teams in intra-town and intra-city leagues. The four-team Edmonton City Association Football League of 1907, for example, included two church teams, All Saints and St. Paul's.[18] By 1910 city churches that were not faced with transportation problems when arranging matches indicated they were no longer content to organize teams to be entered into other leagues. That summer a nine-team Sunday School Baseball League in Edmonton was enthusiastically endorsed by youth of that city.[19] A year later a five-team Church Baseball League and a five-team Sunday School Baseball League in the capital[20] plus a four-team Church Baseball League and a four-team Sunday School Baseball League in Calgary were all reported flourishing.[21] Turning to hockey, a six-team Sunday school circuit and a six-team bible class league operated in Edmonton and Calgary, respectively, during the 1911-1912 season.[22]

The citizens of Lethbridge obviously were in favor of church sport at this time for in the summer of 1912 three different sporting leagues were organized by the churches of this southern city. They were a thirteen-team Girls' Sunday School Athletic Basketball League which was divided into senior and intermediate divisions,[23] a six-team Sunday School Intermediate Baseball League,[24] and a four-team Sunday School Association Football League.[25] Prior to the formation of the above association football league, the Lethbridge Herald expressed the following viewpoint which indicated a growing acceptance, by the churches, of the recreational needs of their parishioners.

> The entry of the church organizations into the soccer field is a most hopeful sign of the times, and they can be assured that they, too, are heartily welcome. In these days of muscular Christianity, athletes are rightly recognized as being within the scope of the church's activities, and the healthy mind in the healthy body, such as can be obtained by a moderate participation in the game of football, is a decided factor in the upbuilding of our young nation.[26]

As it was in Lethbridge, basketball was an extremely popular church sport with both sexes in the Mormon communities which were located in the southwestern corner of the Alberta area. It is highly probable, in fact, that the Mormon church introduced this sport into the future province. Nurtured by the Mormon church, basketball was, during the second decade, one of the premier participant sports in the Cardston-Magrath-Raymond area.

Besides association football, baseball, hockey, and basketball, other sports which were promoted by churches included athletics (track and field), lawn tennis, gymnastics, and table tennis. Most every church held an annual picnic and it was at these affairs that running, jumping, and throwing competitions usually took place.[27] Generally there was a broad range of events both for the young and the old and for males and females. Lawn tennis, because of its social nature, was a favorite sport within some churches. This was best exemplified at Calgary where, between 1913 and 1915, the following church lawn tennis clubs operated: Wesley Methodist, Anglican Young People's Association, Knox Presbyterian, First Baptist, and Central Methodist.[28] A small number of churches in the Alberta area made provision for gymnasia and it was in these indoor facilities that participation opportunities in gymnastics were afforded. In 1911 St. Andrew's Presbyterian church of East Calgary was one church which boasted a gymnasium. Located in the basement of the Sunday school building, its equipment consisted of parallel and horizontal bars, a vaulting horse, a ladder, a punching bag, basketballs, a springboard, wrestling mats, a medicine ball, a hand bar, Indian clubs, and dumbbells.[29] Table tennis, between 1900 and 1903, assumed a significant role in a few churches where tournaments were held as moneymaking projects for church-related causes, for instance, church building funds. But because it was treated as a fad, table tennis lost all public appeal after 1903 in both Canada and the United States.

Churches played an important part, then, in the development of association football, athletics, baseball, basketball, hockey, and lawn tennis, and a lesser part in the popularization of gymnastics and table tennis. Faced with the dilemma of having to adjust to changeful social reforms, which were manifest in the latter part of the nineteenth and in the twentieth century as a result of technological advancement, it appears as if churches adopted the bandwagon principle, using the popular media of sport to increase their own popularity. Except in the case of basketball which was fostered by the Mormon church, four Protestant denominations – the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian – led all churches in the promotion of sports.

## Educational Institutions

With the exception of the physical training classes which were implemented as a result of the Strathcona Trust Fund, formal physical education was not a part of the schools' curricula in the Alberta area. School sports, excluding rifle shooting, were all extracurricular in nature.

The Strathcona Trust Fund was set up in 1909 by Lord Strathcona to provide annual grants to the provinces for the development of physical training and military drill in public schools (that is in those schools maintained by public funds). As one of the recipients of this fund, Alberta's Department of Education was to "incorporate physical training as an integral part of the curriculum in all schools above the primary grades, to form cadet corps, and to provide teacher training in physical education."[30] The objectives of the Strathcona Trust were primarily military and its ends were to be achieved through military exercises. As a result, the teacher training was carried on by Canadian Army sergeants. Their instruction was supplemented by the use of the British Syllabus of Physical Exercises for Public Schools, which was printed in 1904 and which was based on the Ling system of gymnastics.[31] Rifle shooting was an integral part of the physical training curriculum as outlined by the Strathcona Trust Fund and by 1911 it had gained much favor among Alberta's schoolboys. A member of the Calgary Public School Regiment No. 134, Cadet Dalton McWilliams was perhaps the most outstanding marksman to be produced by the Strathcona Trust Fund program in all of Canada. His many achievements included the winning of the cadet championship of the British Empire at Bisley, England, in 1914.[32]

Extracurricularly, the following sports were participated in by the schoolboys of the Alberta area: association football, athletics (track and field), baseball, basketball, Canadian rugby, gymnastics, hockey, ice skating, indoor baseball, lacrosse, softball, lawn tennis, and volleyball. Intra-school competition in these sports took place before school hours, during recesses and noon hours, and after school hours, while inter-school competitions were held after school on school days and on Saturdays. For the most part, the games played by the representative school teams were confined to the "selected few" top athletes in the schools. There were no specialized sport coaches like there are today; instead, the classroom teachers were the coaches.

Educational institutions unquestionably provided the setting and the leadership for the development of four of the most popular participant sports throughout this era — association football, athletics, baseball, and hockey. Association football, baseball, and hockey were by far the most popular participant school activities. At the turn of the century intra-school and inter-school challenge matches were the prevalent form of competition in these sports. But as the population of the Alberta area increased, inter-school association football, baseball, and hockey leagues soon came into being, and in subsequent years these leagues grew continually in number and in magnitude. It eventually became apparent to school authorities that governing bodies were needed to control these leagues in the best interests of the participants and as a result, athletic associations were born.

Probably the first such administrative organization was the Edmonton Public School Athletic Association which was formed in December, 1909.[33] Slightly more than three years later the Calgary Interscholastic Athletic Association was established. This athletic association was unique in that it embraced only those institutions which offered high school instruction, namely, Calgary Collegiate Institute which was operated by the Calgary School Board, and two private schools, Western Canada College and Mount Royal College.[34] Turning to athletics, every school had its annual sports' day, field day, or athletic meet as they were alternately referred to, where running, jumping, and field events for all ages were the order of the day. School athletics was generally acknowledged to be a fall sport while association football and baseball were played in both the fall and the spring, although most inter-school leagues in these latter two sports were contested in the spring.

Basketball, Canadian rugby, and softball also gained in scholastic appeal; however, their popularity did not extend throughout the period under examination and was limited to certain schools. By 1906 most Alberta communities had been introduced to basketball and from then until 1918 it was the "number one" sport, both indoors and outdoors, among the schoolgirls. Interestingly, except in the areas of Mormon settlement, this sport was not widely recognized by schoolboys who were preoccupied with other sports such as association football, Canadian rugby, and hockey. Canadian rugby was not played in Alberta to any appreciable extent until 1908 and then, because of the lack of knowledgeable coaching personnel, the large expenditure which was necessary for the purchase of adequate playing equipment, and the brutal physical contact which was thought to be injurious to boys of public school age (that is from grades one through eight), participation in this sport was mainly limited to the high schools of the large urban centers. In this setting Canadian rugby grew in popularity from both participant and spectator points of view. The first structured softball competition in Alberta likely took place on public school playgrounds at Calgary in 1912. Since it was highly modifiable, softball was an ideal sport for both sexes between the ages of six and fourteen. From 1912 to 1918 softball was played extensively in the public schools of Calgary and Edmonton. Information was scanty on the progress of this sport in other districts of the province.

Of the sports listed as being participant activities within the schools, ice skating and lawn tennis assumed a role of moderateness. In other words, although many schools boasted ice skating and lawn tennis devotees, these sports were devoid of mass participant popularity. This was due to the fact that they were considered secondary sports at various times in relation to association football, athletics, baseball, basketball, Canadian rugby, hockey, rifle shooting, and softball. Scholastic participation in gymnastics, indoor baseball, lacrosse, and volleyball was very small. Once again, these sports took a backseat to other, more popular competitive physical activities. Lacrosse suffered from a near total lack of interest despite the efforts of Joe Lally while the growth of gymnastics, indoor baseball, and volleyball was stymied by the paucity of gymnasia.

The weight system of categorizing public school athletes (that is those from grades one through eight) was experimented with during this era. In 1910 those individuals who were responsible for the Calgary public schools' athletic meet tried out the weight system of grouping schoolboys instead of employing the traditional age method.[35] This system, which provided boys of similar physical growth with competition among each other, proved to be so successful that by 1912 it was being used in Calgary to classify public schoolboys in other sports including association football, baseball, and hockey. Editorializing on this novel arrangement the Calgary Albertan, in 1913, stated:

> The weight system was used in Calgary before any other city in the west, and this system of grading boys according to their physiological age rather than their chronological age has made good here with a vengeance. All boys' sports in the city are conducted on this system now, and, while it is not absolutely perfect, it is the best

> system yet evolved, and has a great deal on the obsolete age system, inasmuch as it groups boys of similar sizes in the same class.[36]

The weight system was introduced into the public schools of several other Alberta centers,[37] but it never came close to achieving the success that it realized in Calgary between 1910 and 1918.

A large majority of the private schools in Alberta were also ardent supporters of sports. Among those whose names graced sports items in the newspapers most frequently were Westward Ho School for Boys, Alberta College, and Robertson College in Edmonton and Western Canada College (W.C.C.), Mount Royal College, and Bishop Pinkham College in Calgary. Of these six, Alberta College, W.C.C., and Mount Royal College were preparatory colleges. W.C.C. was incorporated in June, 1903, as an undenominational institution[38] and from then until the end of this era it was, according to primary sources, the most active of the private schools in the promotion of sports. Much credit for this must be given to Rev. Dr. A.O. MacRae, the first principal of W.C.C., who established a firm sporting tradition in the school during its formative years.

At the University of Alberta (U. of A.) enrollment increased from forty-five in September of 1908, when this institution commenced operations, to 400 in 1914.[39] This startling increase in the number of students was paralleled by the growth of sports on campus. That first school year hockey was a popular activity for the U. of A. had a team entered in the Edmonton Intercollegiate Hockey League.[40] In 1910 the University added two more sports to its extracurricular program. In the spring a baseball squad competed in the Strathcona Baseball League[41] while in the fall a Canadian rugby team was formed. This rugby fourteen shared the earliest intermediate Canadian rugby championship of Alberta (unofficial) when a two-game, home-and-home, total-point series with W.C.C. of Calgary resulted in a tie.[42] Athletics, basketball, and association football came to the fore in 1911 at which time an athletic sports' day was staged,[43] the U. of A. entered a team in the Edmonton City Men's Basketball League,[44] and the University of Saskatchewan defeated the U. of A. 3-1 on the varsity grounds at Strathcona in the first inter-university association football match for the Alberta university.[45] The Annual Calendar of the University of Alberta, 1912-1913 listed among the student societies an athletic association and a wrestling and boxing club,[46] while the student societies recorded in the 1914-1915 university calendar included a rifle association, a tennis club, a women's athletic club, and a harriers' club.[47]

Two sports in which U. of A. athletes excelled were Canadian rugby and hockey. The University became a member of the Alberta Rugby Football Union upon its formation in 1911 and in the A.R.F.U.'s first five years of existence, before the War crippled the sport, the U. of A. won two provincial intermediate championships, in 1911 and

1915,[48] and the provincial senior championship in 1914.[49] In hockey the U. of A. competed in the strong northern division of the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association for five seasons, 1910-1911, 1911-1912, 1913-1914, 1914-1915, and 1915-1916.[50] Although they were highly competitive, the University teams were never able to win this division. On the inter-university sports scene, the U. of A. played exhibition hockey games against both the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Manitoba, and battled the University of Saskatchewan in several association football matches.[51]

In conclusion, the educational institutions within the Alberta area during this era were the breeding grounds for many sports, the most prominent of which were association football, athletics, baseball, basketball, Canadian rugby, hockey, rifle shooting, and softball. In the milieu of the schools a great number of future Alberta sportsmen and sportswomen were developed.

### Ethnic Groups

Immigrants flocked into the Canadian west during the first two decades of the present century as new federal immigration policies, especially the homestead regulations, were put into effect. As a result the population of the Alberta area increased from 73,022 in 1901 to 496,525 in 1916, and to 588,454 by 1921.[52] During each fiscal year from 1909-1910 to 1913-1914 inclusive, Alberta recorded more than 42,000 new immigrants.[53] The immigrants brought with them their own sporting interests which they not only continued to pursue, but which they promoted and fanned. Scandinavians, in particular the Norwegians, introduced and contributed to the development of skiing while the German immigrants bolstered the ranks of association football and gymnastics. The Americans established a firm foundation for basketball, rodeo, and tenpin bowling and, at the same time, elevated baseball to a conspicuously prominent position. Additional American influence was imparted to sports such as aquaplaning, ice boating, indoor baseball, motor boating, volleyball, and wrestling which were developed in the United States before being introduced into Canada. Foreigners from the British Isles brought association football to its heyday and contributed their skill and encouragement to a number of other sports. Englishmen kept alive interest in cricket and English rugby, introduced badminton, and fostered the evolvement of horse and harness-horse racing, hunt clubs, polo, equestrian steeplechase and jumping, and lawn tennis while the Scottish people made their favorite sports – athletics, curling, golf, and lawn bowling – more and more popular. In the meantime English and French Canadians promoted native sports such as canoeing, hockey, ice skating, lacrosse, rowing, and snowshoeing. Two Canadian-invented sports, Canadian rugby and fivepin bowling, rapidly gained support from both English Canadians and immigrants from the United States.

It is of interest to note that immigrants not only brought their sports with them but, at times, also the organizations to control their activities. All Alberta Golf Association tournaments, for example, were conducted according to the rules of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. Some ethnic groups tended to band together in sports and form clubs of their own. This was the case at Edmonton in 1910 where both the Irish Canadian and the Caledonian Amateur Athletic Associations were strong amateur sport organizations that produced many excellent track and field athletes.[54]

## Holidays

Municipal, provincial, and dominion holidays provided the opportunities for great sports rivalries within and between communities, villages, towns, and cities in the Alberta area. In the summer season holiday sports' days, from Arbor Day in May to Thanksgiving Day in October, were extremely popular; in the winter season, because the severe and unpredictable winters and the general lack of indoor facilities made holiday sport festivals impractical, separate challenge matches, league games, and club tournaments in various sports predominated on holidays.

First examining the holiday sports' days, they were, in many areas, the only occasions when people could congregate together to enjoy each other and to exchange ideas and, as such, they were gatherings of extraordinary social significance. But no matter where holidays in the summer season were celebrated, sports always dominated the agenda of events. Holiday sport programs were usually arranged and managed by local organizations, for instance, farmers' groups, exhibition and fair associations, athletic associations, specially-appointed municipal sports committees, trades and labor councils, or turf associations. Although athletics (track and field events) were usually the core activities on formally-structured holiday sports' days, the sports contested varied to a great degree from one locale to the next and from one holiday to the next, since they depended on the sponsoring organization. A typical Dominion Day celebration took place at Wainwright in 1909. It was conducted by the Wainwright Amateur Athletic Association and consisted of a free-for-all horse race, a cowboy's gymkhana-type race, a pony race, a ladies' horse race, a freighter's gymkhana-type race, a bucking horse contest, an association football tournament, a tennis tournament, a baseball tournament, a tug-of-war, and sixteen track and field events which included a five mile road race.[55] The two largest and most famous holiday sports' days during this era were the Victoria Day celebrations at Fort Saskatchewan[56] and Calgary.[57] They were held under the auspices of the Fort Saskatchewan Amateur Athletic Association and the Calgary Fire Brigade respectively.

Holidays during the winter season were, as mentioned, popular occasions for individual sporting competitions. For example, on Christmas Day, 1907, at Calgary, the following sport events took place: the second annual Herald Road Race; two curling matches, one between the vice-president's side and the president's side and the other between the northerners and the southerners, at Alberta Curling Rink; a turkey shoot with 131 entries at the rifle range; a live bird shoot at the Calgary Gun Club traps; a Calgary City Hockey League game at Victoria Rink; and an exhibition hockey game between two Calgary City Hockey League teams at King Edward Rink.[58]

The inhabitants of the Alberta area, then, eagerly grasped the opportunities which holidays furnished to participate in and promote the sports of their liking. In this way holidays contributed to the growth and the maturation of sports. In the outlying districts at the same time, holiday sports continued their vital nineteenth century role of "providing hard-working settlers with an outlet for their troubles and their successes."[59]

## Technological Changes

The development of sports in the Alberta area, 1900-1918, was influenced to a considerable degree by widestretching technological changes. Sports reflected the changes in culture which were caused by inventions and technological innovations related to advancements in transportation, communication, urbanization, and industrialization. Moreover, progress in science and technology helped to produce improvements in sporting equipment and facilities.

In transportation the railway expansion policy was the most significant occurrence. From 1,060 miles on December 31, 1905, Canada's three transcontinental railways – the C.P.R., C.N.R., and G.T.P. – increased Alberta's total railway mileage to 1,505 miles on December 31, 1909, to 3,055 miles on December 31, 1912,[60] and to 3,600 miles by 1914.[61] The effect which more than 2,500 miles of new track had on sports must not be underestimated for it provided the necessary transportation means for the evolvement of inter-village, inter-town, inter-city, provincial, interprovincial, national, and international competitions. Widened competition, in turn, led to the necessity of establishing provincial governing bodies to standardize rules, to define guidelines to be used in determining the amateur and professional status of athletes, and to arrange provincial, interprovincial, and national championships.

Railway companies encouraged athletes and spectators to use their mode of transport by offering special excursion rates to sport events whenever the magnitude of the event justified it. Illustrating, for a crucial Big Three Canadian Rugby League game at Edmonton between the hometown Eskimos and the Calgary Tigers on Thanksgiving Day, 1913, the C.P.R. offered the Tigers and their supporters a half-fare rate to Edmonton and return.[62] The special concessions which were offered by the railway companies were reciprocally beneficial since they attracted more business for the railways, and facilitated exchanges in sports between communities.

Motor cars and electric street railways were novelties during this era. The first automobile was introduced into the Alberta region in 1903[63] while the cities of Calgary and Edmonton installed the earliest streetcar systems in 1909.[64] Nevertheless, after their inauguration these two manners of transportation increased sport participation and, at the same time, made it more convenient for spectators to attend their favorite sporting attractions. This was particularly true in many towns and cities where facilities such as golf courses, rifle ranges, and athletic grounds were located on the outskirts of residential areas. In 1908 an article in the *Calgary Albertan* verified the value of the motor car in one such situation.

> The mode of transportation to and from the course (golf course) on Saturdays and holidays is to be made in H.L. Downey's new motor wagonette, which is to be run at a stated time from the Alberta hotel, and over a given course. The course to be taken will be announced at a later date. With this means of reaching the links, doubtless a large and enthusiastic crowd will take advantage of it.[65]

One of the most memorable uses of electric street railways in Alberta in relationship to sport took place during the ban on professional boxing in Calgary. Scheming promoters in that city simply constructed temporary camps outside of the city's limits at the end of streetcar lines and there they staged professional boxing cards. Tommy Burns' famous arena, where the promising heavyweight, Luther McCarty, died on May 24, 1913, was located at the end of the Manchester streetcar line on Second Street East.[66]

Technological advances in the communication of ideas and information via the mail service, the newspapers, the telegraph, and the telephone also had a strong positive effect on sport. Obviously the efficiency of the mail service was largely dependent on the stage of transportation development; accordingly, as transportation modes improved so did the effectiveness of the postal system. Although exact figures were not available, the increase in the number of newspapers in the Alberta area during this period was astounding. This was due to the tremendous growth in population and the subsequent establishment of many new towns and cities. Most of the fledgling newspapers flourished as a result of twentieth century innovations such as the teletype and the typesetter machine, and improved methods in photographic reproduction. Newspapers enhanced the development of sports by serving several important functions. They printed challenges; provided up-to-date and comprehensive sport coverage which produced a greater public awareness of the world of sports than had ever been achieved before; extolled the virtues of some sports such as lacrosse and Canadian rugby and, in general, promoted and encouraged participation in other activities; served as a media through which residents could voice their opinions on controversial issues like racetrack betting, prize fighting, the inadequacy of facilities, and the amateur-professional ethic; advertised upcoming sporting attractions; and disseminated information about the rules and/or organization of various sports.

In 1906 an act passed by the Alberta legislature empowered municipalities within the province to establish and operate telephone systems as a complement to the government-owned long-distance service. This act "provided that any city, town or organized local improvement district, might establish, own, and operate a telephone system, and carry on the business in the same manner as a private company."[67] Two years later Alberta became the first province in the Dominion to undertake the installation and administration of its own telephone plan.[68] The establishment of telephone systems in both rural and urban Alberta was rapid and by 1914 the province had become united by a vast reticulation of cords of copper. During the same period of time the telegraph system grew apace since, in most instances, it followed the construction of new railways. To a great extent the telephone and the telegraph replaced the function of the mail service in sport. These two modern methods of communication allowed sports teams and bodies to correspond readily in regards to scheduling, administration, and organization; moreover, they brought results from distant places while the news was still fresh, thus boosting popular interest in numerous sports. In December, 1908, at Edmonton, the C.P.R. put a special wire into the Opera House and covered the Jimmy Potts-Billy Lauder lightweight boxing bout by rounds, flashing the results to all towns and cities in the province that possessed a telegraphic service.[69] The telegraph was also used extensively in determining the results of bowling tournaments and rifle shooting meets where each contesting club competed on its own alleys or range respectively.

The processes of urbanization and industrialization brought about many social changes which ultimately affected the development of sports. Manufacturing became a dominant phenomenon and with it the standard of living increased while the working day and the working week were both reduced. As early as July and August of 1906 the merchants of Calgary experimented with a Wednesday half holiday for their employees.[70] The overall effect of urbanization and industrialization on sport was that the average urban citizen had more money and more time with which to pursue competitive physical activities as a participant and as a spectator. At the same time, mass production in industry meant that new, improved equipment could be economically produced thereby making it available to more people with a resultant increase in participation. As participants the working class made a massive movement upon sports such as golf and lawn tennis which had been traditionally considered upper class. This caused some affluent members of society to transfer their allegiance to other sports like aquaplaning, coyote hunting (hunt clubs), motorboating, mountaineering, polo, and yachting which guaranteed at least temporary sanctity from the masses. The movement of social classes up the "sport hierarchy" had obvious expansion effects on the development of sports. "The base of popular, readily attainable sports became broader and the apex, comprised of the more exclusive sports, moved appropriately higher."[71] As spectators the working class increased the total paid attendances at sporting events. This aided the growth of amateur sports and improved the product of professional sports.

In most sports, ameliorations in facilities and equipment were immense and therefore it was impossible to examine this topic in completeness. Improvements in facilities included: indoor arenas complete with electric lighting, steam heating, lavatories, dressing rooms, showers, lockers, and in some cases, semi-circular trusses supporting the roof (this did away with posts which obstructed the view of many spectators); sophisticated golf courses that were designed to challenge the golfer; bowling alleys built on the continuous plan instead of in sections where it was possible for a ball to be diverted from its course by a cross section; and, in Calgary, the Gridiron Auto Racing Speedway which proved to be one of the finest and fastest tracks in the world during this era. These and many other improvements in sports facilities heightened the participant and spectator popularity of the sports concerned. The innumerable improvements in sports equipment were the result of inventions and advancement in the methods of manufacture. Two prominent examples were the Ross rifle and the "spoon blade" hockey stick. The latter was introduced prior to the 1908-1909 hockey season and featured a double wedging of the blade that gave the toe of the blade equal strength at both the top and the bottom. This stick superseded the "wedge" stick which was predisposed to splitting at the top of the blade where it was weak.[72] Sports equipment improvements increased the skill of athletes and this, in turn, made sports more interesting and exciting spectacles for the onlooker.

During this era, then, technological innovations which gave rise to advancements in transportation and communication, and resulted in urbanization and industrialization, plus those developments directly related to improvements in sporting facilities and equipment, not only affected the role of organized sport in Alberta's society, but also engendered vast developments within the sports themselves.

## Women in Sports

In Canada during the 1880s and 1890s the concept of womanhood underwent significant change. "Women became concerned with their rights, their education, and their health with an intensity never before witnessed in history."[73] Throughout these years women demonstrated that they would use sport as one means in their attempt to achieve independence and individuality. Many sources rank the invention of the safety bicycle in 1893 as the paramount factor in developing women's participation in sport. Indeed it was, for the great bicycling fad of the 1890s brought about women's emancipation from the cumbrous dress of hoops and crinolines, and led to the acceptance of the bifurcated skirt (bloomers). Bloomers allowed for a much greater freedom of movement than the hoop skirt did, and of this opportunity the ladies took immediate advantage by increasing the range of physical activities in which they participated.

This trend continued into the twentieth century as sport participation became increasingly important for women in their fight for total license. In the Alberta area during the first decade five resolute lady residents, Henrietta Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Emily Murphy, and Irene Parlby, were instrumental in augmenting the campaign for suffrage on the part of Alberta's female population. They were rewarded in 1916 when the Alberta legislature passed the Equal Suffrage Act which enfranchised the women of the province.

Besides their contention for freedom from Victorian-like ideals there were other elements which inspired the women of Alberta to increase their participation in sports. For instance, inventions and technological innovations in tranportation, communication, urbanization, and industrialization provided the fair sex with the same opportunities for sport development that they did for the sterner sex. Further, in the principal cities Young Women's Christian Associations (Y.W.C.A.s), beginning with the opening of the Edmonton and Calgary Y.W.C.A.s in 1907,[74] provided facilities and instruction in a number of sports. In 1911 the Calgary Y.W.C.A. boasted a swimming pool, a gymnasium, and an instructress named Miss Chown who was a graduate of the Emerson School of Elocution and Physical Culture.[75] World War I provided another stimulus in that many of the facilities which had previously been dominated by male athletes became available for use by the ladies.

The list of competitive physical activities in which women of the Alberta area enthusiastically engaged at one time or another during this era was lengthy. It included athletics (track and field), badminton, baseball, basketball, bicycling, broomball, canoeing, coyote hunting (hunt clubs), curling, equestrian steeplechase and jumping, figure skating, golf, gymkhana, gymnastics, horse racing, ice hockey, ice skating, lawn bowling, lawn tennis, mountaineering, pushball, rifle shooting, rodeo, roller hockey, roller skating, rowing, sailing, skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, softball, swimming, table tennis, tobogganning, and trap shooting. Participation in a large majority of these sports aggrandized each succeeding year after their introduction. Basketball, curling, golf, ice hockey, and lawn tennis were the most popular activities among a major portion of the female athletes while other sports, such as coyote hunting (hunt clubs), mountaineering, and sailing, were in vogue among the upper class sportswomen.[76] By 1918 it was becoming increasingly apparent that women had won for themselves a respectful place on Alberta's sports scene.

## World War I

With the British declaration of war on Germany on August 4, 1914, all of Canada was automatically at war as well. At the time Alberta's population of 470,000 included over 300,000 residents of mainly British backgrounds, that is, residents who either had been born in Canada or had come from Great Britain and her colonies.[77] Therefore it was not surprising that the War caused a great display of patriotic fervor as young men of British ancestry along with veterans of the Boer War and former British regulars swarmed to join the Alberta battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. Within one month 240 members of the 19th Alberta Dragoons and 1,300 officers and men of the 101st Edmonton Reserve Battalion had entrained from Alberta for Valcartier Camp in Quebec.[78] By August of 1915, 3.73 percent of Alberta's population had been recruited, a figure which was more than twice the national percentage of 1.48.[79] But this was just the beginning. Before the War was over 45,136 Albertans, or approximately one out of every eleven, had enlisted, forming twenty infantry battalions, four mounted regiments, three battalions of artillery, and a field ambulance unit.[80]

The War had a profound effect on Alberta's sports development. Following were some of the causal sequences of the worldwide conflict: the Western Canada Baseball League suspended operations after the 1914 season; participation in badminton, field hockey, and English rugby was terminated; the military commandeered most community-owned indoor arenas for training purposes and thereby retarded the development of sports like equestrian steeplechase and jumping, ice hockey, and in Calgary, curling, which were dependent on these facilities; both the Calgary Auto Club's race meet and the Alberta Amateur Swimming Championships were postponed for five consecutive years, 1914-1918; purses offered at many horse and harness-horse race meets were reduced considerably which resulted in a decline in the quality of the racing; the Alberta Bowling Association tournament, the Alberta Rifle Association meeting, and the Alberta Golf Association tourney were cancelled in 1915, 1916, 1917, and 1918; both the Alberta Rugby Football Union and the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association discontinued their senior leagues in November, 1915; the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association (A.A.A.A.) banned all organized senior civilian sport where a gate or a collection was to be taken from April 1, 1916 until the end of the War and all organized intermediate civilian sport under the same circumstances from November, 1916, until November, 1917; the provincial lawn tennis tournament, the A.A.A.A.-sponsored provincial track and field meet, and the Alberta Association Football League championship playoff were suspended from 1916 to 1918; and the Alberta Provincial Trapshooters Association meet was cancelled in 1918.

To a great extent, Alberta's athletes responded eagerly and without reserve to the call-to-arms of their country and, consequently, membership in most sports dwindled significantly. A noticeable trend saw civilian leagues revert from regional to local status and finally curtail activities altogether. Probably the outstanding example of player losses to enlistment was in association football. In Calgary by February, 1915, 936 of the 1034 registered players who had performed in the 1914 Calgary Association Football League had exchanged their jerseys, shorts, stockings, and cleats for khaki uniforms[81] while at Edmonton in July, 1915, the Bulletin reported that a comparison of the 1914 Edmonton Association Football League registration list with that of 1915 revealed that more than ninety percent of the 1914 players had joined the ranks of the Imperial forces.[82] On the other hand there were a few sports like curling, fivepin bowling, golf, lawn bowling, lawn tennis, and quoits which maintained their participant status quo during the War. This was chiefly due to two factors. First, these sports were individual and small team activities and therefore did not owe their existence to the paying public. Second, they were popular among the older folk who were not eligible for War service and, in the case of curling, golf, lawn bowling, and lawn tennis, they were popular among the ladies.

Military sports in Alberta during the War were of a piecemeal variety. Inter-battalion leagues and athletic associations were continually disrupted by urgent calls for more soldiers from Valcartier Camp and the European front. Nevertheless the November, 1915, A.A.A.A. ruling, which stated that "in competition amongst enlisted men soldiers may compete with or against professionals and not endanger their amateur standing, provided they receive no remuneration,"[83] supplied a much-needed incentive for inter-battalion competition. At Edmonton in April, 1916, a highly-structured inter-battalion athletic association was organized and featured regular competition in five sports – baseball, association football, athletics (track and field), cricket, and lacrosse.[84] Two months later this athletic association was thrown into disorder when several of the Edmonton-based battalions were transferred to Sarcee Camp near Calgary.[85] There, however, military sports enjoyed their finest month in July, 1916, when the Sarcee Camp Athletic Association directed a ten-team association football league; a five-team lacrosse circuit; a twelve-team, two-divisional baseball league; and the ten-day Alberta Military Boxing Championships, the finals of which were viewed by 8,000 soldiers and civilians.[86] In 1917 and 1918 sport competitions among the military in Alberta were generally not noteworthy since soldiers were constantly being rushed to the aid of the allied powers.

From an overall perspective World War I was a period of stagnation in the development of sports in Alberta. The growth of most civilian sports was blocked by huge recruitment losses and the 1916 A.A.A.A. bans on intermediate and senior sport, while military sports were only designed to increase the general physical fitness and the morale of the troops. Fortunately school and junior levels of sport were encouraged by school administrations and Y.M.C.A.s, and by the A.A.A.A. and Y.M.C.A.s respectively. It was the younger athletes which these programs produced who provided the stable foundation on which sports were re-established in the immediate post-War years.

## Y.M.C.A.

The first Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) on the North American continent was established at Montreal in 1851. At this time the Y.M.C.A. was essentially a religious organization. By 1890, however, the ever-changing environment of the industrial age had caused a dramatic change in the philosophy of this institution. Strict religious programming had given way to a four-fold arrangement which embraced the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical condition of members.[87] Later this approach was reduced to the three-fold concept of spirit, mind, and body symbolized by the now-famous red triangle of North American Y.M.C.A.s.[88]

Murray Ross wrote that in Western Canada between 1906 and 1914

> ...the fever for Y.M.C.A. buildings swept along like a prairie fire, and great compaigns and buildings were completed in city after city in rapid succession. It is no exaggeration to say that Canadians considered the Y.M.C.A. ... a mark of social development and the city without such a building was, in terms of the day, regarded as "behind the times."[89]

Three cities in Alberta caught this Y.M.C.A. building fever for the only "Y" structures to be erected in the Alberta area between 1900 and 1918 were completed at Edmonton in 1908, at Calgary in 1909, and at Lethbridge in 1911. These Alberta Y.M.C.A.s were constructed at final costs of $70,280, $65,000, and $70,000 respectively.[90]

The development of the physical department of the Canadian Y.M.C.A. was spectacular after 1890 due, for the most part, to the greater emphasis that sport received in Canadian society at that time.[91] This was clearly reflected in the facilities which were built into the Y.M.C.A.s in Alberta. The Calgary "Y", for instance, housed a gymnasium on the main floor, a running track banked on the corners above the gymnasium, a swimming pool which measured seventeen and one-half feet by fifty feet, bowling alleys, shower baths, and lockers.[92] In addition this "Y", from its outset, boasted outdoor tennis courts and an outdoor cinder running track.[93]

With the establishment of Y.M.C.A.s in Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge participation in and the organization of sports in these cities rapidly improved. This can best be illustrated by examining the effect that the Calgary Y.M.C.A. had, during its early years of existence, on the sports in that community. In 1908, in anticipation of the completion of their building, the Calgary "Y" organized a tennis club and entered teams in the Calgary Amateur Baseball League, the Calgary Rugby Football Union, and the Calgary Amateur Hockey League.[94] On January 24, 1909, this Y.M.C.A. was formally opened[95] and with it a new era of sports organization dawned in the Southern Alberta metropolis. In February that year a seven-team Y.M.C.A. basketball league was inaugurated, and two months later a Harriers' Club was formed, the first of its kind in Calgary. Also that spring "Y" teams were admitted to the Calgary Senior Association Football League, the Calgary Juvenile Association Football League, the Calgary Amateur Baseball League (senior), and the Calgary Intermediate Baseball League. In June, 1909, the newly-formed Y.M.C.A. Swimming Club hosted the first annual Alberta Provincial Swimming Championships while in July a Y.M.C.A. handicap tennis tournament was held.[96]

In October of 1909 a six-team Calgary Y.M.C.A. bowling league was organized, a "Y" Wrestling Club was initiated, and gymnasium classes commenced for the winter session. These classes included instruction for junior and senior schoolboys, junior and senior employed boys, young men, businessmen, professional men, plus the various leaders.[97] Boxing became an official Y.M.C.A. sport in March, 1910,[98] and a month later bicycling enthusiasts structured the Y.M.C.A. Bicycle Club.[99] Also during 1910 the Calgary Y.M.C.A. played a large part in introducing three new sports – handball,[100] indoor baseball, and indoor soccer[101] – to the residents of that city while a fourth novel sport, water polo, received much discussion even though the lights at the "Y" pool were not correctly placed for competition in this activity.[102]

This brief outline of the evolvement of some sports at the Calgary Y.M.C.A. in 1908, 1909, and 1910 clearly exemplifies the major role that this institution played in the development of sports in Calgary after 1907. The Calgary Albertan recognized this role in March, 1911, when it printed that:

> The nucleus of Calgary as the athletic centre of Western Canada is the physical department of the local Y.M.C.A. This institution has endeavored to encourage and promote every kind of legitimate sport and to make clean and fair play the outstanding features.[103]

The Y.M.C.A.s at Edmonton and Lethbridge played equally important parts in the furtherance of sports in their respective communities.

Young Men's Christian Associations across Canada were predisposed to emphasis indoor sports since they provided the necessary and, in some cases, the only facilities.

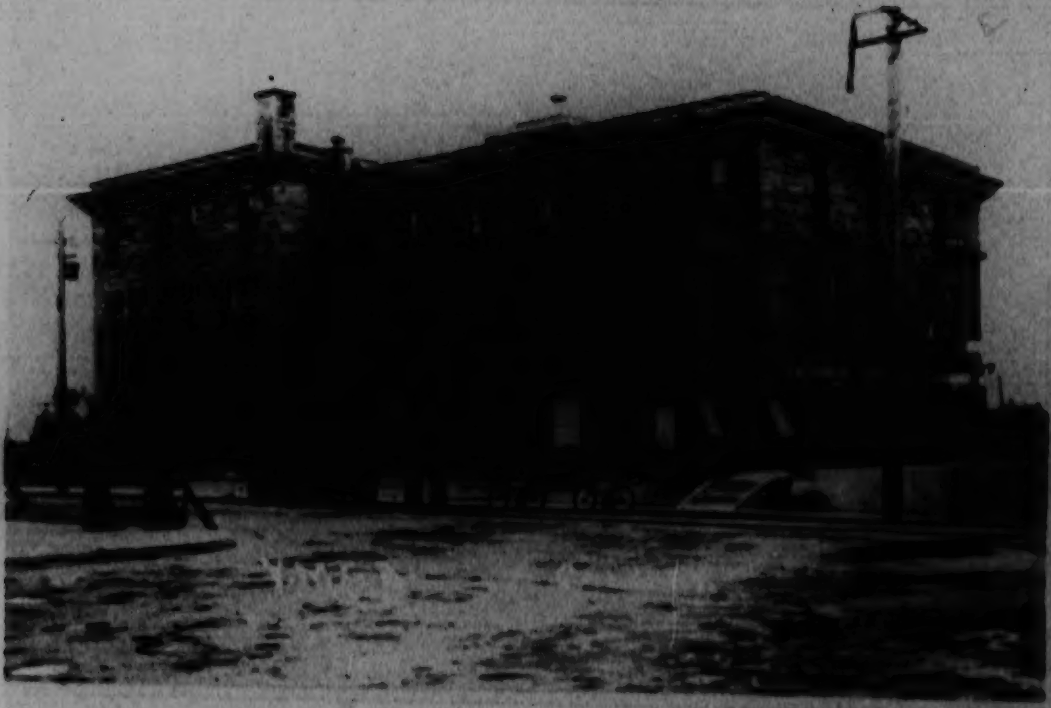

Figure 38. The Calgary Y.M.C.A. building, completed in 1909.

This was obviously the situation in Alberta where the three Y.M.C.A.s accentuated participation in athletics (track and field), basketball, bowling, boxing (amateur), diving, gymnasium classes (which included some gymnastics), handball, indoor baseball, indoor soccer, swimming, volleyball, water polo, and wrestling (amateur). The "Y" indoor swimming pools were the only swimming facilities of their kind in the province during this era. But from newspaper gleanings it appeared that gymnasium classes were the most prevalent form of activity. These classes were highly regimental and consisted of a wide variety of military drills, calisthenics, and gymnastics for schoolboys and men of all ages, their purpose being the development of the physical man. The winter indoor athletics program at the Edmonton Y.M.C.A. also received much attention. It was this "Y" that won the 1911 national senior hexathlon championship and finished second in the junior competition, and that captured the 1912 national junior hexathlon championship and ended third in their quest for the senior title.[104] The national hexathlon competition embraced five events: the standing broad jump, running high jump, fence vault, potato race, and shot put.

The Alberta Y.M.C.A.s did not delimit their sport programs because of their indoor facilities but, instead, supplied leadership wherever it was needed. They continually provided technical "know-how" in the organization and operation of church, school, juvenile, and junior leagues in numerous team sports, the most significant of which were association football, baseball, and hockey. At Calgary before the War, Jack Sharpe, secretary of the boys' department of the local Y.M.C.A., was a fiery force behind boys' sports in that city. Acknowledging this fact the Albertan stated that:

> To the Calgary Y.M.C.A. is due great credit for its breadth of vision in appreciating the importance of clean athletics (sports) for the boys of the city. The boys' department of this organization is presided over by Jack Sharpe, recognized not only as one of the leading athletics authorities in the West, but as a young man who has applied to his work in Calgary the highest principles of sportsmenship, tempered with efficiency. No league in Calgary is complete without him and no junior organization would think of organizing without his advice. He is connected in some capacity with every junior organization in the city and also with the Interscholastic Athletic Association.[105]

The Y.M.C.A.s also played a major role in boys' sports during the War. Because many senior athletes were lost or seriously wounded, the guidance and encouragement which the Y.M.C.A.s provided at the schoolboy and junior levels between 1914 and 1918 proved to be of utmost importance to the development of sports in Alberta in the early post-War years.

Thus the work of the Y.M.C.A.s in Alberta was outstanding in the advancement of most sports. Many boys and men who were attracted to this association by the physical department later gained appreciation of the remaining areas of the "Y" — the religious, educational, and social programs.

In this way the Y.M.C.A. strove to develop healthy, Christian, educated, and benevolent citizens.

## Footnotes

[1] Semi-professionalism and professionalism were not differentiated in this section due to the difficulty encountered in standardizing definitions for these two levels of athleticism and in determining the extent of participation in a sport at each level.

[2] Macleod Gazette, February 23, May 26, 1900 and June 14, 1901.

[3] Edmonton Bulletin, May 18 and August 5, 1908.

[4] Ibid., May 18, 1908.

[5] Kevin G. Jones, "Sport in Canada, 1900-1920," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1970, pp. 438-440.

[6] Calgary Albertan, June 25, 1909.

[7] Edmonton Bulletin, April 1, 9, and 28 and May 3, 1915.

[8] Calgary Albertan, February 16, 1909.

[9] Edmonton Bulletin, November 8 and December 24, 1915.

[10] Ibid., March 24, 1916.

[11] Calgary Albertan, March 25 and 28, 1916.

[12] Edmonton Bulletin, April 7, 1916.

[13] Calgary Albertan, December 28, 1916.

[14] Edmonton Bulletin, November 14, 1916.

[15] Calgary News-Telegram, November 20, 1917.

[16] Edmonton Bulletin, October 16, 1915.

[17] Ibid., May 19, 1919.

[18] *Ibid.*, April 29, 1907.

[19] *Ibid.*, May 7 and June 1, 1910.

[20] *Ibid.*, May 12 and 23, 1911.

[21] *Calgary Albertan*, May 6 and June 22, 1911.

[22] *Ibid.*, December 28, 1911 and *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 15, 1911.

[23] *Lethbridge Herald*, May 28 and June 5, 1912.

[24] *Ibid.*, May 28, 1912.

[25] *Ibid.*, July 13, 1912. Also, see *Calgary Albertan*, June 13, 1914.

[26] *Lethbridge Herald*, May 4, 1912.

[27] For example, see *Calgary Herald*, August 1, 1901, *Edmonton Bulletin*, July 28, 1902, and *Calgary Albertan*, October 26, 1909.

[28] *Calgary News-Telegram*, April 9, 1913, July 17, 1914 and *Calgary Albertan*, August 25, 1913, September 11, 1915.

[29] *Calgary Albertan*, November 22, 1911.

[30] M.L. Van Vliet (editor), *Physical Education in Canada*, Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd., 1965, p. 5.

[31] *Ibid.*

[32] *Calgary Albertan*, August 21, 1916.

[33] *Edmonton Bulletin*, December 2, 1909.

[34] *Calgary Albertan*, January 15, 1913.

[35] *Ibid.*, May 22, 1912.

[36] *Ibid.*, July 10, 1913.

[37] For example, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, September 26, 1916.

[38] Archibald Oswald MacRae, *History of the Province of Alberta*, Volume I, The Western Canada History Co., 1912, p. 473.

[39] John Blue, *Alberta. Past and Present*, Volume I, Chicago: Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., 1924, p. 298.

[40] *Edmonton Bulletin*, January 9, 1909.

[41] *Ibid.*, May 14, 1910.

[42] *Ibid.*, November 7, 1910.

[43] *Ibid.*, September 29, 1911.

[44] *Ibid.*, September 21, 1911.

[45] *Ibid.*, November 6, 1911.

[46] *University of Alberta. Annual Calendar. 1912-1913*, Volume V, Edmonton: The University of Alberta, 1913, p. 97.

[47] *University of Alberta. Annual Calendar. 1914-1915*, Volume VII, Edmonton: The University of Alberta, 1915, pp. 127-130.

[48] *Edmonton Bulletin*, November 6, 1911 and November 11, 1915.

[49] *Ibid.*, November 23, 1914.

[50] *Ibid.*, November 19, 1910, December 1, 1911, November 14, 1913, November 26, 1914, and December 2, 1915.

[51] See Chapters V and XV for further details.

[52] Blue, *op. cit.*, p. 217.

[53] *Ibid.*, p. 218.

[54] *Edmonton Bulletin*, January 8 and March 22, 1910.

[55] Wainwright, Alberta, *Dominion Day Celebration at Wainwright, Alberta. Official Programme*, Wainwright, Alberta: The Star Print, 1909.

[56] Peter T. Ream, *The Fort on the Saskatchewan*: Edmonton: Printed by the Douglas Printing Co. Ltd., 1957, pp. 98-100. Also, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, May 25, 1904, May 25, 1910, May 22, 1912, and May 26, 1914.

[57] For example, see *Calgary Herald*, May 31, 1900, May 30, 1901, August 14, 1902 and *Calgary Albertan*, April 11, 1907.

[58] *Calgary Albertan*, December 26, 1907.

[59] Nancy and Maxwell L. Howell, *Sports and Games in Canadian Life. 1700 to the Present*, Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, 1969, p. 134.

[60] *Calgary Albertan*, February 28, 1913.

[61] James G. MacGregor, *A History of Alberta*, Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972, p. 207.

[62] *Calgary Albertan*, October 17, 1913. Also, see *Edmonton Bulletin*, February 22, 1901, January 15, 1910, and January 20, 1917.

[63] MacGregor, *op. cit.*, p. 180.

[64] *Calgary Albertan*, July 2, 1909.

[65] *Ibid.*, May 4, 1908.

[66] *Calgary News-Telegram*, August 23 and 31, 1912.

[67] MacRae, *op. cit.*, p. 460.

[68] *Ibid.*, p. 463.

[69] Edmonton Bulletin, December 14, 1908.

[70] Calgary Albertan, June 15, 1907. Also, see Medicine Hat Weekly News, May 10, 1900 and Calgary Herald, July 12, 1906.

[71] Allan Elton Cox, "A History of Sports in Canada, 1868-1900," Unpublished Ph. D. dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1969, pp. 460-461.

[72] Edmonton Bulletin, December 4, 1908.

[73] Margaret Ann Hall, "A History of Women's Sport in Canada Prior to World War I," Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton, 1968, p. 112.

[74] Edmonton Bulletin, August 31 and September 18, 1907 and Calgary Albertan, November 15, 1907.

[75] Calgary Albertan, February 7, 1911.

[76] For further details see the historical development of each sport as they appear in the preceding chapters.

[77] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 206.

[78] Ibid., pp. 229-230.

[79] Edmonton Bulletin, August 11, 1915.

[80] MacGregor, op. cit., p. 230.

[81] "Outstanding Record Made in Past Years by Calgary Elevens," Calgary Albertan, April 16, 1932, Provenance: Calgary - Sports File, Glenbow-Alberta-Institute Library.

[82] Edmonton Bulletin, July 31, 1915.

[83] Ibid., November 8, 1915.

[84] Ibid., April 25, 1916.

[85] Ibid., June 16, 1916.

[86] *Calgary Albertan*, June 28, July 7, 8, 10, 19, 21, and 26, 1916.

[87] Murray G. Ross, *The Y.M.C.A. in Canada*, Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1951, p. 177.

[88] *Ibid*., p. 498.

[89] *Ibid*., p. 305.

[90] *Ibid*., p. 506.

[91] Jones, *op. cit*., p. 476.

[92] *Calgary Albertan*, January 1, 1909.

[93] *Ibid*., October 4, 1909.

[94] Ibid., June 3, June 11, September 30, and December 28, 1908.

[95] *Ibid*., January 25, 1909.

[96] *Ibid*., February 15, April 14, 15, 22, 28, May 18, 28, June 25, and July 14, 1909.

[97] *Ibid*., October 4, 12, and 13, 1909.

[98] *Ibid*., March 11 and 18, 1910.

[99] *Calgary Daily News*, April 2, 1910.

[100] *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 19, 1910.

[101] *Calgary Albertan*, October 12, November 28, and December 26, 1910.

[102] *Ibid*., December 17, 1910.

[103] *Ibid*., March 2, 1911.

[104] See Chapter XXII for further details.

[105] *Calgary Albertan*, February 28, 1913.

# CHAPTER XXIV

## CONCLUSIONS

Primarily as a result of three key factors - immigration, science, and technology - the 1900-1914 period of Alberta's history was marked by remarkable growth and change in every facet of society. During these years, Alberta's population skyrocketed from less than 70,000 to 470,000 at the same time that endless inventions and technological innovations engendered rapid advancements in transportation, communication, urbanization, and industrialization. To keep pace, hundreds of new schools and churches were constructed while in Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge, elaborate Y.M.C.A. complexes were erected. All of these factors plus others had a profound effect on the development of sports.

When the twentieth century dawned on the Alberta area, sports were in an inchoate stage of development. The subsistence of leagues was rare and so the challenge level of competition predominated; moreover, sports governing bodies were nonexistent, declared championships were unofficial, and rules fluctuated from one region to another. From this elementary level of organization sports evolved at an extraordinary rapid rate. A few of the milestones in this development were the formation of the Territorial

Rifle Assocation in 1902; the Alberta branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland in 1904; the Western Canada Polo Association and the Alberta Rifle Association in 1905; the Alberta Football Association in 1906; the Western Canada Baseball League, the Alberta Lacrosse Association, the Alberta Provincial Association Football Union, and the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association in 1907; the Alberta Amateur Athletic Association and the Alberta Golf Association in 1908; the Alberta Association Football League in 1909; the Western Canada Cricket Association in 1910; the Alberta Bowling Association, the Alberta Rugby Football Union, and the Western Canada Rugby Football Union in 1911; the Western Canada Fair and Racing Circuit Association, the Crow's Nest branch of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club of Scotland, the National Ski Association of Western Canada, the Alberta British Rugby Union, and the Alberta Cricket Association in 1912; and the Alberta Provincial Trapshooters' Association in 1914.

Prior to the start of the First World War many sports basked in prosperity as a sequent of the evolvement of sophisticated league arrangements and inter-club competitions, the codification of rules, and the development of complex playoff and tournament systems which not only determined provincial champions but also western interprovincial and/or national champions. Generally speaking, however, the War slowed the development of sports in Alberta to a standstill. Then, at the conclusion of the

War in the fall of 1918, all attempts to rebuild competitive physical activities to the status which they enjoyed in 1914 were temporarily negated by the Spanish flu epidemic which swept through Alberta. This epidemic was so severe that on October 16 of that year, the Provincial Health Board made the wearing of masks compulsory and, at the same time, placed a ban on all public gatherings which included all sports competitions.[1]

The development of sports in Alberta during this era thus fell into two hetergeneous phases: the 1900-1914 period which saw unparalleled growth in the number of sports participants and spectators, and in the organization of leagues, inter-club competitions, and regional and provincial administrations; and the 1914-1918 period which was marked by little or no growth. Women invaded many sports between 1900 and 1918 as an expression of their desire for greater freedom from nineteenth century Victorian ideals and, as a result, their contribution to the sports life of the Alberta area became increasingly pronounced. An overwhelming majority of Alberta's athletes were not native to this region but were, instead, immigrants from Eastern Canada, the United States, and Europe. Recognizing this fact in 1916, the Calgary Albertan wrote:

> For years practically all the senior athletes who performed for the benefit of the critical fans were men who learned the games in other cities and provinces (and countries). It has taken several years for the youngsters to develop, but with the passing of each season now, the

> boys who have learned to play the games in the school and junior leagues (of the province) are beginning to show their class in the senior leagues.[2]

Perhaps the most outstanding native-born Alberta sportsman in the first two decades of this century was Cloney Tait, an Edmontonian who captured the lightweight boxing championship of Canada in 1917.

One recommendation looms large and clear at the conclusion of this study. Because of the immense amount of time and painstaking research which is required to complete such an investigation, further delimitations in either time span or regional considerations should be imposed on future theses of this nature. Besides permitting a more fecund examination, this would allow more time for purely interpretive analysis, in other words, for "interpreting various events relevant to sports in order to provide greater awareness of our present situation."[3]

## Footnotes

[1] *Edmonton Bulletin*, October 26, 1918.

[2] *Calgary Albertan*, June 10, 1916.

[3] Melvin Adelman, "The Role of the Sport Historian," *Quest*, Monograph XII, Spring issue (May 1969), p. 64.

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# APPENDIX

## SOURCES OF ILLUSTRATIONS

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